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Japan

U.S. Steelmakers 'Likely' To File New Charges

OW1306082592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0805 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 13 KYODO—U.S. steelmakers will likely file charges against Japanese and other foreign steelmakers accusing them of selling automotive steel sheets at unfairly low prices in the United States, Japanese industry sources said Saturday. The "dumping" charges will involve steelmakers in 20 countries, including Japan, South Korea, and Germany, the sources said.

The U.S. International Trade Commission must make a preliminary ruling on such charges within 45 days after petitions are filed. The Commerce Department must make a similar ruling within 160 days. The commission dismissed a dumping charge filed by two U.S. steelmakers over imported railroad rails earlier this week.

"As automobile steel sheets are largely made from high-quality rolled steel not produced in the United States, I believe their imports are not hurting the U.S. steel industry," said Mitsuru Shiokawa, managing director of Kawasaki Steel Corp.

New dumping charges would inevitably intensify friction between Japanese and U.S. steelmakers, which have tried to strengthen their collaboration over the past decade, the sources said.

Tokyo To Help U.S. 'Strengthen' Competitiveness

OW1306093692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0924 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 13 KYODO—Japan has decided to help the United States strengthen its competitiveness through technological interchanges, government officials said Saturday. The officials said the decision was made by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] in line with a bilateral agreement reached in mid-May.

The ministry will inaugurate a new department assigned to promote interchanges of engineers between Japan and the United States, the officials said. In an initial step, they said 100 U.S. engineers in automotive and electronic industries will be invited to Japan to undergo training on quality control and production technology. The number will later be doubled, they said.

The new department will consult with the powerful Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) on the selection of Japanese corporations to accept U.S. trainees, the officials said. The ministry believes the new project will support U.S. President George Bush in his bid for reelection this year as the decline in U.S. competitiveness has emerged as a major issue in the presidential election in November, the officials said.

They said the ministry plans to enhance the project to include the European Community and Asian countries in the future.

Spouses of Hijackers Refuse To Return Passports

OW1306140792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1341 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 13 KYODO—Five "spouses" of Japan Red Army members living in North Korea since committing a 1970 hijacking faxed a message to Japan on Saturday, rejecting a Foreign Ministry order to give up their passports, supporters of the hijackers said. According to the supporters, the five are among six Japanese women who went to North Korea after the hijacking of a Japan Airlines Jet known as "Yodo" to marry the Red Army members.

The statement, from "women in Pyongyang who are seeking the cancellation of an order to return passports" and released by the supporters in a rally Saturday afternoon, is the first received in Japan from the women.

"We got married to them (the hijackers) in the process of our activities and shared their ideologies with sympathy," the message said. "We have come to participate in their struggle in solidarity with them to achieve Japan's independence."

The ministry ordered the five women in a published government document in August 1988 to hand over their passports. The document said the women offended Japan's national interests by allegedly having contacts with North Korean agents. The ministry did not seek the return of the sixth woman's passport.

The women's message denounced the order as "constituting part of an anti-republic (North Korea) campaign by South Korea, the United States, and Japan."

"We will engage in a thorough struggle in an official venue to clarify the ministry order's lack of validity," the message says, suggesting they may file a lawsuit against the order.

The supporters, members of "the Association in Support of Humanitarian Return of Hijackers of Yodo Airliner," said they will seek the help of lawyers to press the women's claims. The group has urged the Japanese Government to allow the hijackers to return home without being subjected to criminal charges.

Nine Japan Red Army hijackers seized and commandeered the Boeing 727 jet with 129 people aboard to North Korea via Seoul. They freed several passengers in Seoul and the remainder in North Korea. One of the hijackers died in North Korea and another was arrested after returning to Japan in 1988.

Japan has demanded the hijackers' extradition in a series of normalization talks, but the North Korean Government has refused to comply.

Environment Treaty Meetings Held With ROK

OW1206132392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1300 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 12 KYODO—Japan and South Korea agreed in two days of talks in Tokyo Friday to conclude an environmental protection treaty as soon as possible, but were unable to finalize an "action plan" to balance bilateral trade, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The officials said the two sides are now negotiating on a draft of the environment protection treaty, which may be concluded by the end of the month or in July.

The agreement came at working-level talks aimed mainly at redressing Japan's consistent trade surplus with South Korea, which stood at 8.7 billion dollars last year, and promoting the transfer of Japanese industrial technology.

They said the two sides were unable to finalize their drawing up of an "action plan" which spells out concrete measures to correct the bilateral trade imbalance. Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa made the commitment to such a plan, when he visited Seoul in January.

Negotiators are to meet again once or twice this month in an attempt to reach agreement on the plan before July, in keeping with the date originally proposed by Miyazawa and South Korean President No Tae-u.

The officials said there was some progress but no firm meeting of minds on South Korea's call for setting up a 200 million dollar industrial and science technology foundation.

South Korea said it would be flexible on the proposed amount of mutual funding for the foundation, with Japan saying that its initial funding would come from the private sector and later the government on specific projects once the foundation is created.

Seoul said the foundation could support joint research in industrial technology and expedite technology transfers to allow South Korea to move away from its current dependence on Japanese imports of semiconductor and machinery technology.

The officials said that in addition to the agreement on an environmental protection treaty, an accord was also reached on cooperation in five specific fields of environmental technology.

They said Japan pledged to accept 20 South Korean trainees this year to take courses here related to environmental protection at the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

The two sides also agreed to prepare for the first meeting of a proposed bilateral forum of business leaders.

Officials said the South Korean side called for Japan to halve its import tariffs on South Korean-made textile, footwear and leather products. It also wants to remove quarantine and other nontariff barriers.

The Japanese response was lukewarm. The officials told the South Koreans that the issue should be discussed in the forum of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Japan called for South Koreans to let Japanese trading houses engage directly in trading in the country, as now they can only act as mediators between buyers and sellers, taking commissions off those transactions.

They said the South Koreans indicated they would open up the export field to Japanese trading houses, but only on certain conditions that remain to be worked out by the two sides.

The officials said Seoul called for South Korean construction firms to be given the same opportunities as those accorded U.S. firms in participating in public works projects in Japan.

The Japanese response was that the matter should be discussed in the Uruguay Round talks on government procurement. The South Koreans were also told that while the Japanese construction market is open, South Korea's is very closed.

The Japanese side called on South Korea to improve its investment climate in South Korea and technology transfer environment, particularly by reducing red tape.

The Japanese also demanded fair treatment of Japanese patents, especially those for pharmaceuticals, considering that Seoul gives preferential treatment to those of the United States and the European Community (EC).

The two countries established the working-level forum, called the Japan-South Korea Committee on Trade, under an agreement in November 1990. The group met in June 1991 and again last April.

Committee To Study SRV Investment Opportunity

OW1206084392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0816 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 12 KYODO—A Japanese committee was established Friday to study investment opportunities in a broad range of areas in Vietnam, committee officials said.

Twenty-six companies, mostly from the distribution, food, and trading sectors, will be represented on the committee formed in response to Vietnam's calls for investment from advanced industrial nations.

The Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the government-backed Export-Import Bank of Japan are also participating in the search for feasible investments in Vietnam, a former Soviet ally rich in raw materials, committee officials said.

They said the committee will promote investment in a proposed Vietnamese food processing and trade zone and offer assistance in developing its infrastructure, including power supply, ports and airport facilities.

Tokyo To Recognize Sierra Leone's Government

OW1206003992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0031 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 12 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told a cabinet meeting Friday Japan will recognize Sierra Leone's new government formed after a coup in April that drove President Joseph Momoh out of office.

Foreign Ministry officials said Japan will recognize the new Sierra Leone government by acknowledging the receipt of a diplomatic note from Freetown.

Miyazawa reported the Japanese policy toward the Western African country to his cabinet in behalf of Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe who was hospitalized with gallstones and bile duct infection.

More Reportage on PKO Bill Passage, Reaction

Lower House All-Night Session

OW1206161092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1601 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 13 KYODO—Japan's legislature on Friday midnight entered the final stages to enact a bill that would allow the sending of troops to join United Nations peacekeeping activities in Cambodia and other overseas trouble spots.

But opponents of the bill continue to employ go-slow tactics to delay passage of the bill through the House of Representatives.

Upon the approval of the powerful lower house, the bill will become law since it has already cleared the second chamber, the House of Councillors, earlier this week.

In a move to counter opposition efforts to derail the bill, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Friday night submitted to the House of Representatives a motion that would throw the weight of the lower house behind the cabinet.

The confidence motion is a pre-emptive measure aimed at defeating the Social Democratic Party's [SDP] plan to submit its own nonconfidence motion against the cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, political sources said.

Confidence motions usually take priority over nonconfidence ones in parliamentary practice.

The SDP has repeatedly threatened to submit nonconfidence motions against the cabinet and individual cabinet ministers in the party's last-ditch effort to delay the passage of the bill to send the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) overseas to join in U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Japan's cabinet consists of the prime minister and 20 cabinet ministers. The SDP, the No. 1 opposition party with a 137-member strength, is theoretically allowed to submit 21 censure motions calling for the dismissal of each individual minister.

The SDP has vowed to employ the "cow walk" filibustering technique for each motion against a minister, a ploy that could transform the final parliamentary process leading to the eventual certain passage of the bill into a several-day-long ordeal.

Seiroku Kajiyama, chairman of the LDP's Diet Affairs Committee, told his SDP counterpart, Tomiichi Murayama, "If your party dares to submit nonconfidence motions against each cabinet minister, we'll find it difficult to find enough time to deal with each motion." The SDP earlier submitted a nonconfidence motion against Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato, a chief aide to Prime Minister Miyazawa.

Kato came under a barrage of opposition criticism after his alleged involvement in the Kyowa bribery scandal came to light following submission by a now-bankrupt steelmaker's trustee of a list of 32 recipients of its cash donations.

To counter the LDP's pre-emptive confidence motion, the SDP submitted an additional motion demanding the dismissal of Osamu Takatori, chairman of the lower house's budget committee.

The SDP said that Takatori should be purged from his post as he had earlier refused the opposition parties' demand to subpoena to parliamentary hearings Fumio Abe, a former cabinet minister under indictment for his involvement in the Kyowa bribery scandal, and Kiyoshi Sagawa, founder and former chairman of the Sagawa Kyubin group of trucking companies implicated in a huge political scandal.

Earlier in the evening, the plenary session was the scene of angry protests and outcries as a motion was passed limiting a question and answer session on another motion demanding the dismissal of Keisuke Nakanishi, chairman of the lower house's steering committee.

The lower house voted to place a 10-minute limit on the interpellations by each of five legislators from the SDP and the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) concerning the motion against Nakanishi.

Nakanishi conducted a vote Tuesday on a motion to bypass the initial question and answer session at the plenary session and send the bill directly to the house special committee on international peace and cooperation, which approved the bill Thursday.

The vote to limit debate came shortly after Vice Speaker Kiichi Murayama invoked his legal authority to speed up parliamentary business and urged legislators to cast their ballots "within 30 minutes."

The motion was approved with the backing of the LDP, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP). JCP legislators voted against the motion, but the ballot box was closed before some 70 SDP legislators had cast their ballots.

At 7:43 P.M., Murayama, who had taken over as acting speaker about three hours and a half after Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi convened the plenary session at 2:44 P.M., ordered the ballot box closed.

Angered at the decision to end voting, the 70 or so SDP lawmakers who had been using the "cow walk" tactic, stormed the speaker's rostrum in protest.

Amid the furor, Murayama recessed the plenary session and declared its reconvening shortly after midnight Friday.

As Speaker Sakurauchi declared the plenary session open 12 minutes after Friday midnight, the lower chamber began to take a vote on a proposal to end interpellations by opposition questioners on a motion to dismiss Nakanishi as steering committee chairman.

Some 15 hours are necessary to kill the motion against Nakanishi, political sources said.

The lower house plenary session is in the final stage of parliamentary procedure before an overall final vote is taken on the peacekeeping bill.

With the LDP's 278-member commanding majority in the 512-seat lower house, passage of the bill is virtually assured. But the SDP, JCP and United Social Democratic Party (USDP) have vowed to filibuster to the end to demonstrate their undying opposition.

The opposition parties have denounced the bill, saying it violates Japan's constitutional ban on the use of force to settle international conflicts.

Meanwhile, earlier on Friday, all lower house SDP legislators heeded their leadership's call and handed SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe letters of resignation in an effort to force dissolution of the lower house.

It remains to be seen whether the SDP leadership will formally submit the resignation notices. If they are turned over, the lower house might be forced to call a vote on the matter, political sources said.

Delaying Tactics Continued 13 Jun

OW1306012392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0053 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 13 KYODO—Opposition legislators continued to employ delaying tactics Saturday morning during an all-night session of the House of Representatives to stall passage of a bill to allow troops to join United Nations peacekeeping operations [PKO].

Lower house speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi declared the plenary session open shortly after midnight Saturday.

The lower house members of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) used the extremely slow "ox walk" tactic early Saturday morning in voting on three motions related to a motion demanding the dismissal of Keisuke Nakanishi, chairman of the lower house's Steering Committee.

Sakurauchi and Vice Speaker Kiichi Murayama ordered the ballot box closed before all the SDP and JCP members had voted.

The SDP, the largest opposition party, submitted a no-confidence motion against Sakurauchi.

Upon approval by the powerful lower house, the bill will become law since it cleared the House of Councillors earlier this week with the support of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and two centrist opposition parties, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party.

To counter opposition efforts to derail the bill, the LDP Friday night submitted a motion that would throw the weight of the lower house behind the cabinet.

The SDP has repeatedly threatened to submit no-confidence motions against the cabinet and individual cabinet ministers in a last-ditch effort to delay the passage of the bill. A confidence motion, however, takes precedence over a no-confidence motion and approval of the LDP motion would pre-empt the opposition efforts.

With the LDP's 278-member majority in the 512-seat lower house, passage of the peacekeeping cooperation bill is virtually assured. The SDP, JCP and United Social Democratic Party, however, have vowed to filibuster to the end to demonstrate their opposition.

The opposition parties have denounced the bill, saying it violates Japan's constitutional ban on the use of force to settle international disputes.

The draft resolution demanding the dismissal of Nakanishi was voted down shortly before 11 A.M.

SDP Secretary General Sadao Yamahana said his party will limit its no-confidence motions to ones against the cabinet and Sakurauchi and will not submit no-confidence motions directed at individual cabinet ministers.

Yamahana made the remarks during a meeting with the secretaries general of the LDP, Komeito and the DSP.

SDP Submits No-Confidence Motion

OW1306043592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0425 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 13 KYODO—The top opposition party, the Social Democratic Party [SDP], submitted no-confidence motions Saturday against the cabinet and House of Representatives Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi to stall passage of a bill to allow Self-Defense Forces troops to join United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Opposition legislators Saturday morning continued to employ delaying tactics against the bill during a session of the lower house that ran through the night.

Sakurauchi declared the plenary session open shortly after midnight Friday to discuss a draft resolution demanding the dismissal of Keisuke Nakanishi, chairman of the lower house's Steering Committee.

The lower house members of the SDP, the Japanese Communist Party (JCP), and the United Social Democratic Party (USDP) used the extremely slow "ox walk" tactic early Saturday morning in voting on three motions related to the draft resolution.

Sakurauchi and Vice Speaker Kiichi Murayama ordered the ballot box closed before all the SDP and JCP members had voted.

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To counter opposition efforts to derail the bill, the LDP Friday night submitted a motion that would throw the weight of the lower house behind the cabinet.

The SDP previously threatened to submit no-confidence motions against the cabinet and individual cabinet ministers in a last-ditch effort to delay the passage of the bill. A confidence motion takes precedence over a no-confidence motion and approval of the LDP motion would preempt the opposition efforts.

The LDP agreed to withdraw its confidence motion when the SDP withdraws a no-confidence motion against the cabinet.

With the LDP's 278-member majority in the 512-seat lower house, passage of the peacekeeping cooperation bill is virtually assured. The SDP, JCP and USDP, however, have vowed to filibuster to the end to demonstrate their opposition.

The opposition parties have denounced the bill, saying it violates Japan's constitutional ban on the use of force to settle international disputes.

Motion Against Speaker Defeated

OW1306114092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1056 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Tokyo, June 13 KYODO—Supporters of a bill to send Japanese troops overseas on United Nations peacekeeping missions defeated a no-confidence motion Saturday against House of Representatives speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi designed to delay the bill's passage.

The vote came shortly after leaders of the supporting parties—the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party—agreed with the opposing Social Democratic Party (SDP) to resume a plenary lower house session at 10 A.M. Sunday and vote on a confidence resolution aimed at Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's cabinet.

The LDP submitted the confidence motion to counter a motion of no-confidence against the cabinet by the SDP in the largest opposition party's bid to derail passage of the bill to let Japanese troops join U.N. peacekeeping missions. Confidence motions usually take priority over no-confidence ones in parliamentary practice.

Parliamentary sources speculated that the U.N. Peacekeeping Cooperation Bill would come to the floor of the 512-member chamber Monday and pass Tuesday. [passage omitted]

As Japanese lawmakers wrangled, about 200 protesters from citizens' groups performed a "funeral" for the bill in front of the Diet building and rallied on nearby streets. [passage omitted]

'Marathon 15-Hour' Session Held

OW1306071992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0649 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Tokyo, June 14 KYODO—A political fight over a peacekeeping bill is almost certain to continue beyond Sunday, political sources said Saturday. The opposition's delaying tactics kept legislators Saturday from finishing a vote on the bill that would allow Japan to send troops overseas to join United Nations peacekeeping activities in Cambodia and other trouble spots.

In a marathon 15-hour plenary session ending late Saturday morning in the 512-seat House of Representatives, a three-party coalition led by the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) voted down a motion calling for the dismissal of the chairman of the house steering committee, Keisuke Nakanishi, a Liberal Democrat. The motion was put on the agenda by the Social Democratic Party (SDP), the main opposition group, in a bid to delay passage of the peacekeeping bill. [Passage omitted on opposition efforts to derail the bill]

The lower house finally voted to kill the motion with a commanding majority of 337 seats maintained by the LDP and its coalition partners, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party. The combined strength of the opposition to the bill—the SDP, JCP [Japanese Communist Party] and Shinminren—stands at 158.

The plenary session was due to vote later Saturday on another SDP-sponsored no-confidence motion against [house speaker Yoshio] Sakurauchi. The ruling and opposition camps have yet to reach an accord on how to handle two more motions—confidence and no-confidence resolutions of the cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, political sources said.

The LDP submitted the confidence motion to counter the SDP's no-confidence one. Confidence motions usually take priority over no-confidence ones in parliamentary practice.

In backstage talks among representatives of political parties, the SDP agreed to drop motions directed at individual cabinet ministers and argued instead to focus on one against the cabinet, the sources said. Talks between the parties on ending delaying tactics in a vote on the motion against the speaker failed, the sources said. [passage omitted on peacekeeping bill's background]

Diet Gives Up Day Off To Continue

OW1406021992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0209 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 14 KYODO—Japan's Diet inched closer Sunday to enacting a bill that would allow the government to send troops overseas to join United Nations peacekeeping activities in Cambodia and other trouble spots.

Members of the powerful House of Representatives gave up their day off and began deliberations at a plenary session in the morning on a cabinet confidence motion which the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) submitted to counter delaying tactics from opponents of the bill.

The LDP-dominated lower chamber is expected to approve the confidence motion and to begin a vote on the peacekeeping cooperation bill.

An LDP-led coalition comprises 337 legislators out of the house's total 512 seats, compared with the combined strength of 158 for the Social Democratic Party, Japanese Communist Party and minor opposition group Shinminren, which oppose the peacekeeping bill.

The LDP's coalition partners, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party, are expected to support the cabinet confidence motion, political sources said.

After the vote on the confidence motion, the house will take a vote on the peacekeeping cooperation bill.

The bill is almost certain to clear the house Monday at the earliest or by Tuesday at the latest, the sources said.

Upon lower house approval, the bill will become law since the opposition-controlled second chamber, the House of Councillors, endorsed it last week.

On Saturday, the coalition defeated a no-confidence motion against House of Representatives speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi, which the opponents introduced as a tactic to delay the vote on the peacekeeping bill.

The LDP submitted the confidence motion to counter motions of no-confidence against the whole cabinet and individual cabinet ministers.

A confidence motion usually takes priority over a no-confidence one in parliamentary practice.

The lower house plenary session is in the final stage of parliamentary procedure required to enact the peacekeeping bill.

The opposition parties have denounced the bill, saying it violates Japan's constitutional ban on the use of force to settle international conflicts.

Cabinet Confidence Motion Passed

OW1406132192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1312 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 14 KYODO—The House of Representatives approved a motion of confidence in the cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa Sunday evening, paving the way for the enactment of a bill that allows the dispatch of Japanese troops abroad as UN peacekeepers.

It was the first time since World War II that a confidence motion for a cabinet has been put to a vote and approved.

Approval meant the lower chamber was throwing its weight behind Miyazawa and 20 individual cabinet ministers, dispelling the possibility that a no-confidence motion could force the premier to dissolve the lower house, political analysts said.

The confidence motion was backed by the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Komeito, and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), the three-party coalition supporting the peacekeeping bill.

The Social Democratic Party (SDP), the Japanese Communist Party (JCP), and Shinminren, a five-legislator opposition group, voted against the confidence motion, dragging out the balloting for more than three and a half hours by trudging almost imperceptibly to the ballot box in a tactic called the "cow walk."

Lower house speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi halted the voting shortly after 7 P.M. by invoking his authority to order the ballot box closed.

Protesting Sakurauchi's move, opponents of the bill stormed the speaker's podium and defiantly thrust their green "no" ballots toward him.

After Sakurauchi declared the passage of the confidence motion, Miyazawa stood up and bowed to the chamber in an expression of gratitude.

The SDP had submitted a no-confidence motion against the cabinet but was forced to withdraw it after the ruling party submitted the confidence motion.

Under parliamentary procedure, when motions submitted by different political parties overlap in their implications, only one is brought to a vote during a single Diet session.

Earlier in the afternoon, the SDP and Shinminren agreed their lawmakers would jointly resign as lower house members in a last- ditch attempt to press Miyazawa into dissolving the chamber and calling a snap election to take the peacekeeping bill to the public, party officials said.

The two parties plan to submit their resignations before the full lower chamber starts final deliberations on the bill Monday in what would be the first time in postwar Japan that a party has sought Diet approval for the mass resignation of its members, the officials said.

SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe told an emergency meeting of party leaders that party members "will submit the letters of resignation to the speaker," vowing "to stake the fate of our party on this move. And no one is allowed to withdraw from this."

But political sources said the resignations are unlikely to take effect since Diet resignations need the approval of the chamber to which the resigning members belong.

The LDP-dominated lower chamber is unlikely to approve the mass resignations, the sources said, adding that all SDP lawmakers would boycott the vote.

When SDP Secretary General Sadao Yamahana proposed Friday that lower house party members resign, all 137 submitted signed letters of resignation within two hours.

The LDP, Komeito, and DSP agreed Sunday to convene a lower house plenary session at 10 A.M. Monday and try to pass the bill the same day, even if the SDP carries out its threat to walk out of the chamber in protest or resign, party officials said.

The SDP, JCP, and Shinminren together hold 158 seats in the 512- member lower chamber, far short of the 257 majority needed to kill the bill.

The SDP has 137 seats, the JCP 16, and Shinminren five. Shinminren groups the four lower house members from the United Social Democratic Party and the one lawmaker from a small progressive group.

Those groups reject the bill, which would allow Japanese ground troops to go abroad for the first time since the country's wartime defeat, saying it violates Japan's postwar Constitution, which bans the use of forces to settle international conflicts.

Resignation Strategy Viewed

OW1506014292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0128 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 15 KYODO—With the government aiming to pass a UN peacekeeping bill by Tuesday, the House of Representatives resumes Monday morning despite a move by members of the largest opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) to resign en masse from the Diet.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and two opposition parties, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), said their campaign to secure the passage of the historic legislation would not be deterred by the SDP attempt to torpedo the Diet session.

The bill provides for the dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces to engage in UN peacekeeping operations for the first time.

It stems partly from criticism chiefly from the United States over Japan's failure to provide a "physical" contribution to the U.S.-led multinational forces arrayed against Iraq following the invasion of Kuwait.

Outnumbered by the LDP-led coalition's strength of 337 members in the 512-member chamber, the SDP said its 137 lower house legislators submitted resignation letters to lower house speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi.

SDP sources said the action is meant to force Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to dissolve the powerful lower chamber and call an election.

SDP lawmakers in the lower house have threatened to resign only on three previous occasions, including once in 1960 over the Japanese-U.S. Security Treaty but have never before followed through with their threats.

Four members of a small opposition party also went along with the SDP "resignation" strategy to prevent bill from passing through the lower house and becoming law.

The House of Councillors approved the measure last week.

But ruling party sources said both Komeito and the DSP, which have joined the LDP in supporting the peacekeeping bill, are strongly opposed to general elections for the lower house, which could coincide with an upper house contest expected July 26.

Diet sources said Sakurauchi could reject or approve such mass resignation requests or he or the lower house Steering Committee could sit on them.

Monday's lower house session comes a day after the chamber approved a motion of confidence in the Miyazawa cabinet Sunday, acting on an LDP-initiated measure to counter a series of SDP filibusters, including "ox walk" delaying tactics, to frustrate Diet proceedings.

SDP Wants Lower House Dissolved

OW1506013692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0119 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 15 KYODO—The Social Democratic Party (SDP), Japan's largest opposition party, called Monday for the dissolution of the powerful House of Representatives, renewing its opposition to a bill allowing Japanese troops to participate in UN peacekeeping missions.

In a special statement, the SDP challenged Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to face the Japanese electorate over the controversial legislation and submitted resignation requests from all its 137 lower house members to speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi.

Four members of a minor opposition party also joined the SDP in the unprecedented campaign to derail the peacekeeping bill, on which the ruling Liberal Democratic Party has the support of the centrist opposition parties Komeito and Democratic Socialist Party.

Miyazawa Rejects Election Call

OW1506041892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0413 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 15 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa flatly rejected calls Monday from the largest opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) to dissolve the powerful House of Representatives and call for general elections over a United Nations peacekeeping bill. He said the enactment of the UN peacekeeping bill is top priority, adding that he is not thinking of dissolving the lower house.

The bill would allow Japanese Self-Defense Forces to participate in UN peacekeeping operations for the first time.

He made the comment to reporters in the Diet building after all 137 SDP members and four members of the minor opposition group the United Social Democratic Party (USDP) tendered resignation letters to lower house speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi.

Sakurauchi reluctantly received the letters and relayed them to the lower house steering committee, parliamentary sources said.

SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe said at a news conference that the lower house should debate the resignation requests ahead of the peacekeeping bill.

The SDP's unprecedented action came amid growing indications that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and two centrist opposition parties, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), are prepared to vote on the bill later Monday or on Tuesday. An LDP leader predicted that the bill would be approved by the lower house by early Tuesday.

The SDP, in a special statement, challenged Miyazawa to face the Japanese electorate over the controversial legislation and submitted resignation requests from all its 137 lower house members to speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi.

The peacekeeping bill stems partly from criticism chiefly from the United States over Japan's failure to provide a "physical" contribution to the U.S.-led multinational forces arrayed against Iraq following the invasion of Kuwait.

SDP lawmakers in the lower house have threatened to resign only on three previous occasions, including once in 1960 over the Japanese-U.S. Security Treaty, but have never before followed through with their threats.

The House of Councillors approved the peacekeeping bill last week.

But ruling party sources said both Komeito and the DSP, which have joined the LDP in supporting the peacekeeping bill, are strongly opposed to general elections for the lower house, which could coincide with an upper house contest expected on July 26.

Monday's lower house session comes a day after the chamber approved a motion of confidence in the Miyazawa cabinet on Sunday, acting on an LDP-initiated measure to counter a series of SDP filibusters, including "ox walk" delaying tactics, to frustrate Diet proceedings.

Lower House Enacts PKO Bill

OW1506120392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1153 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 15 KYODO—After twists and turns in the parliament, Japan passed a law Monday authorizing the dispatch of Japanese ground troops overseas for the first time since World War II.

The powerful House of Representatives endorsed a government- proposed bill to cooperate with United Nations peacekeeping efforts overseas with 329 votes in favor and 17 votes against.

Members of a three-party parliamentary coalition formed by the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), voted in favor of the bill. Japanese Communist Party (JCP) legislators voted against it.

A combined total of 141 members of the No. 1 opposition party, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), and the United Social Democratic Party (USDP), boycotted the vote-taking plenary session.

Earlier in the day, the SDP and the minor opposition group USDP, staging a last-minute resistance tactic to delay the passage of the bill, presented resignations of all their members in the lower house and called for its dissolution for a snap general election.

But Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa rejected the call for the dissolution.

The passage of the peacekeeping bill followed an LDP-proposed vote of confidence in the Miyazawa cabinet and came despite intense resistance from the SDP, JCP and USDP.

The confidence motion was a preemptive strike to defeat the SDP's plan to submit a no-confidence motion against the Miyazawa cabinet.

With the lower house approval, the peacekeeping bill became law because the upper chamber, the House of Councillors, approved it last week.

To get it past the SDP and the opposition-controlled upper house, the LDP watered down the measure to woo two centrist parties, Komeito and the DSP, into its camp to ensure its passage before the current Diet session expires on June 21.

The modifications, however, did not satisfy the SDP and the JCP, which said it violated a constitutional ban on the use of force in resolving international disputes.

The two opposition parties, joined by minor opposition parties, blocked votes on the bill in both chambers of the Diet through an array of no-confidence motions.

They also used a filibuster tactic known as the "ox-walk" in which legislators sway and meander across the floor to the voting box so slowly that votes can take hours.

Voting on June 8 on a no-confidence motion against Shinichiro Shimojo, chairman of the upper house's Special Committee on Peace and Cooperation, took a record 13 hours in an all-night session in the upper chamber.

Under the law, up to 2,000 personnel mainly from Japan's Self- Defense Forces may join UN peacekeeping units involved in logistics, medicine distribution and other noncombat duties.

More hazardous operations—such as separating warring armies during cease-fires—would require prior Diet approval and could not be undertaken without the passage of a separate law.

The legislation also calls for a review of the bill three years after its enactment and an intraparty body to discuss the review will be created within two years.

The Japanese legislature also enacted a law authorizing the dispatch of SDF units on overseas disaster-relief missions.

Hit by international criticism for not contributing personnel to the U.S.-led multinational effort to oust Iraqi forces from Kuwait in the Persian Gulf war, the cabinet of Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, Miyazawa's immediate predecessor, proposed legislation in 1990 to send troops to assist the alliance. The measure died, however.

The Kaifu cabinet proposed the just-enacted bill in September 1991 and since then debate on the bill has continued through three Diet sessions.

During the Gulf crisis, Japan paid as much as 11 billion dollars to the multinational forces but was wounded by complaints that Japan was willing to contribute money but not personnel to international peacekeeping efforts.

The only overseas deployment of Japanese troops since the end of World War II was an SDF minesweeping task force sent to the Gulf last year.

Yasushi Akashi, the Japanese who heads the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, has repeatedly urged Japan to send personnel and contribute to the peace and reconstruction process there.

But China as well as North and South Korea have voiced concern about the Japanese legislation, fearing it would lead to a militarily strong Japan.

The passage of the law will likely be a major issue in the upper house election in late July, political analysts said.

'Summary' of UN Peacekeeping Law

OW1506123692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1212 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 15 KYODO—The following is a summary of the Law on Cooperation in UN Peacekeeping Operations as translated by KYODO News Service.

Article 1 (aim of legislation)

This legislation aims to make active contributions to UN-led efforts for international peace.

Article 2 (basic principles)

1. The government will extend effective cooperation to UN peacekeeping operations and humanitarian international rescue activities.

2. Cooperation for international peace must be neither a threat by force or use of force.

Article 3 (definition)

Cooperation for international peace

A. Monitoring cease-fire agreements. Monitoring relocation, withdrawal and disarming of forces agreed upon.
B. Stationing of personnel and patrolling in buffer zones and other areas created to prevent armed conflicts.
C. Checking incoming or outgoing arms and munitions transported on vehicles or carried by people.
D. Collecting, keeping and disposing of arms which are abandoned.
E. Helping set up ceasefire lines.
F. Assisting in exchanges of prisoners of war.
G. Monitoring elections, plebiscites.
H. Assisting and monitoring local police.

I. Providing aid in civil administration areas.
J. Providing medical care.
K. Searching for and rescuing refugees.
L. Providing refugees with food, clothing and medical care, etc.
M. Setting up shelters for refugees.
N. Repairing, constructing basic life-support facilities.
O. Assisting in removal of contamination and other damage to the natural environment.
P. Providing transport and communication facilities, storing materials, doing construction of all sorts and providing machines and equipment.

Article 4 (establishment and jurisdiction)

The headquarters of cooperation for international peace shall be established in the prime minister's office.

Article 5 (organization)

The prime minister will head the headquarters of cooperation for international peace.

Article 6 (implementation)

The prime minister must seek prior Diet approval each time it plans to take part in activities A-F. If the Diet is recessed or the House of Representatives is dissolved, the prime minister must without delay seek Diet approval at the first session convened after the dispatch.

Each chamber must make efforts to decide on the dispatch within seven days after receiving a request for approval.

The government must finish UN cooperation activities without delay if it does not win Diet approval.

The prime minister must seek Diet approval if the cooperation activities will continue beyond two years.

Article 12 (sending personnel to peace cooperation corps)

The prime minister cannot send personnel other than Self-Defense Forces [SDF] members to missions A-F stipulated in Article 3.

SDF members dispatched will hold status as SDF members and also as cooperation corps members.

Article 18 (number limit)

The number of those engaged in peace cooperation shall not exceed 2,000.

Article 21 (carrying weapons)

SDF personnel can carry light weapons for the purpose of self-defense.

Article 22 (use of weapons)

Members of peace cooperation corps can use light weapons to defend themselves or other members.

Business Leaders Welcome Enactment

OW1506123592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1139 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 15 (KYODO)—Japanese business leaders welcomed the enactment Monday evening of the bill to allow Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to take part in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Some executives, however, urged the government to make further efforts to seek understanding from Japan's Asian neighbors about its defense policy, now that the Diet has passed the bill.

South Korea and China, among other countries, have expressed concern over the potential military implications of the bill in view of Japan's aggression against them before and during World War II.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said the Diet action is an expression of Japan's readiness to actively take part in peacekeeping operations as a "peace-loving nation." Hiraiwa is also chairman of Tokyo Electric Power Co.

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who is also chairman of Kajima Corp., said the action has opened the way for Japan to make international contributions in terms of defense personnel.

Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers Associations (Nikkeiren), said Japan should make further efforts to deepen understanding of neighboring countries, which are concerned about implications of the new law.

Masaru Hayami, chairman of the Japanese Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), said Japan should try to ease the feeling of anxiety among its neighbors about its potential military threat. Hayami is also chairman of Nissho Iwai Corp.

Some business leaders were critical of the opposition parties' go-slow tactics in Diet votes in protest against the bill.

Nagano, who is also chairman of Mitsubishi Materials Corp., said the tactics were in contempt of the Diet, while Hiraiwa said a reform of Diet management should be considered as part of political reform.

Opposition Condemns Enactment

OW1506154892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1525 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 15 (KYODO)—The two opposition parties that boycotted a House of Representatives Plenary Session voting on a U.N Peacekeeping Cooperation Bill Monday, condemned the parties that enacted the bill.

Social Democratic Party Chairman Makoto Tanabe said the enactment will overshadow peace in Japan in the future, adding, "I am indignant that the (ruling) Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and two centrist opposition parties forced the passage of the bill in the lower house."

Japan Communist Party Leader Tetsuzo Fuwa said his party will continue to make every effort to scrap the bill.

Meanwhile, LDP Secretary General Tamisuke Watanuki said the party will study the possibility of holding a summit between Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Tanabe to repair ties between the two parties.

Defense Agency Chief Sohei Miyashita said the agency will continue efforts to gain understanding from the Japanese people on the dispatch of Self Defense Forces (SDF) personnel overseas to join U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Miyashita also said, "The agency will take measures to secure the safety of SDF personnel joining U.N. missions."

Tokyo Plans $100-200 Million in Cambodian Aid

OW1306072892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0717 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 13 KYODO—Japan plans to give Cambodia 100 million to 200 million dollars over several years to aid its postwar rehabilitation, government sources said Saturday. That will make Japan the biggest contributor among the parties attending a Cambodian reconstruction conference opening in Tokyo on June 20, the officials said.

Japan and other donor countries are expected to pledge a total of 400 million to 500 million dollars at the conference, the sources said. U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali has said Cambodia's reconstruction will cost some 593 million dollars. Other large donors will be the United States, Australia, and such international institutions as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the U.N. Development Plan, the officials said.

Japan's grant to Cambodia will include medical equipment and technological cooperation, they said. Japan gave Cambodia about 65 million dollars last fall to help Cambodian refugees and for other humanitarian projects. The officials said the Japanese Government considers it necessary to grant Cambodia a sizable amount of money in view of the country's ravaged economy.

It is unusual for Japan to offer such a huge amount to other countries as a grant instead of in yen credits. The existing high was 16 billion yen (about 123 million dollars) granted to China over three years from fiscal 1981 to finance construction of a Sino-Japanese friendship hospital.

Miyazawa Vows To Dispatch Personnel to Cambodia

OW1506142392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1414 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 15 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa pledged Monday to strive for the early dispatch of personnel to Cambodia to serve in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

"Achievement of lasting peace in Cambodia is very important for maintaining peace and stability throughout Asia," Miyazawa said in a statement issued shortly after parliament approved a UN peacekeeping cooperation bill.

Addressing concerns expressed by Asian victims of World War II aggression, Miyazawa reaffirmed Japan will not become a military power that threatens other countries.

Japan's participation in UN peacekeeping operations will "never entail the possibility of the use of force nor the dispatch of armed forces to land, sea, and airspace for the purposes of using force," he said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato told reporters the government will continue to use diplomatic channels to gain understanding of Japan's peaceful intentions.

In response to Asian criticism that Japan has not stated clearly enough its World War II behavior was wrong, Kato said the issue of war responsibility is separate from the new law.

Kato announced plans to dispatch a government advance team to Cambodia to examine possible personnel contributions in areas such as medicine and transport.

Japan also plans to send an official to the United Nations headquarters in New York to explain the law, he said.

Kato declined to predict when parliament would move to lift a freeze on Self-Defense Forces participation in cease-fire operations.

The freeze was imposed at the request of Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party, which joined hands with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to pass the controversial bill.

Mutsuyoshi Nishimura, cabinet councillor in charge of peacekeeping legislation, said in an interview he expects it to be lifted in two or three years, and not at the prompting of an international crisis.

"We don't need another Saddam Hussayn to go forward," Nishimura said.

He cited the peacekeeping mission in Somalia as another possibility for Japanese participation because the operation there is "nothing political."

It is unlikely parliament would approve participation in peacekeeping operations in places like Yugoslavia where there is no accord between the warring parties, Nishimura said.

Miyazawa Speech Suffers 'Technical Problem'

OW1306151692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1457 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, June 13 (KYODO)—The Japanese delegation at the Earth Summit was perplexed Saturday morning after Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello failed to announce the expected televised speech to the summit by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Miyazawa was scheduled to be the fifth speaker of the morning session, but shortly after 10 A.M., following a speech from the Mauritanian prime minister, Collor announced the next speaker would be Dhibouti's prime minister, and not Miyazawa as scheduled.

Collor gave no explanation for the change, which appeared to take Japanese officials by surprise.

U.N. sources said U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali had complained about the videotaped Miyazawa speech.

Japanese delegation spokesman Sadaaki Numata and several other Foreign Ministry officials stood, portable phones in hand, in the central lobby of the conference center relaying sparse information to a growing knot of Japanese and other media.

After ringing the Japanese delegation's main office, Numata said the delay appeared to be caused by a technical problem, but could not give a guarantee of when it would be solved.

"People on the technical side are working on it," he said.

Numata said ministry officials confirmed the Brazilian National Television Network received the satellite transmission of the speech early Saturday morning.

Ministry officials and the Japanese media were concerned it may be delayed till the afternoon—early Sunday morning in Japan—and too late to have any immediate political impact in Japan, where Monday is a newspaper holiday.

Another source said while the Japanese delegation had requested to Earth Summit Secretary General Maurice Strong the taped message be shown, the delegation had not cleared it with U.N. authorities running the conference.

However, a U.N.-distributed program listing speakers for the Saturday session clearly shows Miyazawa as the fifth speaker in the morning.

Strong said the tape will be shown to the delegates Saturday.

Strong Rejects Video Presentation

OW1306160992 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1400 GMT 13 Jun 92

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] Today during the second day of the Earth Summit, 48 representives—including French President Mitterrand and Peruvian President Fujimori, as well as EC President Delors—are scheduled to deliver a speech.

Since Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa cannot attend the Earth Summit because of Diet deliberations on the peacekeeping [PKO] bill, the Japanese Government planned to take an unprecedented measure by airing at the summit meeting a video of Miyazawa's speech sent via satellite. However, the proposal was rejected. The Japanese Government delegation is negotiating with Secretary-General Strong of the Earth Summit for a possible broadcasting of Prime Miyazawa's speech at least in the form of an unofficial speech before commencement of the afternoon session of the summit meeting.

Businesses Urge Efforts on Earth Summit Goals

OW1506022492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0158 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 15 KYODO—Japanese business leaders said Monday Japan and other rich nations must work hard to put into action the goals set by the just-concluded Earth Summit.

Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), said the summit marked a first step toward global cooperation on environmental protection and it would be a problem for major countries to realize the goals it set.

The 12-day summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, ended Sunday with the adoption of several pacts, including the Rio Declaration, a nonbinding set of moral and environmental principles, and Agenda 21, an action program for carrying out those principles.

Referring to Japan's responsibility in carrying out the agreements, Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said, "Japan should make active commitments not only on the financial but also on the technological front."

Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers Associations (Nikkeiren), said, "Japan, with the largest trade surplus in the world, bears a heavy responsibility."

He urged for more environment-related overseas assistance by the government and expansion of environmental funds of the World Bank.

The business leaders expressed regret over the absence of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa from the summit.

Masaru Hayami, head of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives, said, Miyazawa's absence "left a problem for Japan's future."

They want Miyazawa to underline Japan's cooperative stance on environmental issues at the summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations in Munich in July.

New Party Head To Run in Upper House Election

OW1206073792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0720 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 12 KYODO—Morihiro Hosokawa, founder of the recently formed New-Japan Party, said Friday he will run in July's House of Councillors election.

"I will put my name in the list of candidates for the proportional representation system and take the lead in the campaign," Hosokawa told a news conference.

Hosokawa said his party will eventually field 17 or 18 candidates for the election, scheduled for July 26.

The former Kumamoto governor and Diet member expressed confidence the candidates could win public support, saying they would form a "well-balanced" group of men and women of many ages and from many regions.

Hosokawa, 54, surprised Japan's political world early last month by announcing he would form a new party and field upper house candidates to compete with existing parties, which he said are stuck in old-style politics despite the end of the cold war.

The 10 candidates Hosokawa has named for the election include Kunitaro Takeda, 80, head of an agricultural research institute, economic affairs commentator Keizo Kojima, 75, Yoshio Terasawa, 60, former vice president of Nomura Securities Co., political analyst Tetsuya Matsuzaki, 42, and professional tennis player Naoko Sato, 37.

Hosokawa on Friday brushed aside criticism that older people dominate the first batch of New-Japan Party candidates.

"People tend to regard our new party as something urban and Tokyo-oriented. That is undesirable," he said. "We wanted to show that our basic policy values agriculture, rural communities, and environmental issues."

The party plans to recruit candidates from the public, he said.

"So far, we have received about 200 papers and letters, including some very splendid ones," he said. "Of them, we are planning to choose three to five people as candidates."

Hosokawa said he will soon unveil the party's fundraising methods, which he said will be new and different. He also said the party will create a think tank of experts from various fields after the July election and work on the party's basic policies, which it will make public by the fall.

After serving as an upper house Diet member from July 1971, the journalist-turned politician became governor in February 1983 of the southwestern prefecture where his ancestors had been feudal leaders.

He served two consecutive four-year terms through February 1991 but did not seek a third term.

Trade Insurance Compensation Rate Reviewed

OW1206105692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1036 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 12 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) will review the trade insurance system with a view to boosting overseas investment by private companies, ministry officials said Friday.

The ministry plans to set up a subcommittee under the Trade Insurance Council, an advisory body to the minister, to review the system and operation of trade insurance, under which the government insures private firms against risks in international trade and investment, the officials said.

Among the items to be considered by the subcommittee will be an increase in compensation rates and simplification of insurance payout procedures, they said.

The move is aimed at reactivating sluggish Japanese private-sector investment in the republics of the former Soviet Union, East European countries, and other developing nations, they said.

The officials said the ministry hopes to meet the expectations of developing nations on Japan, an economic giant enjoying regular trade surpluses, by encouraging banks and trading firms to invest in countries ranked high on the country risk list.

The subcommitee, which is expected to consist of representatives from banks, trading houses, and manufacturers, will work out by November a plan to implement the revised program from fiscal 1993, starting next April, MITI Minister Kozo Watanabe told a press conference earlier in the day.

The amount of Japanese private company investment in developing countries has recently dropped sharply.

Most of the 1.8 billion dollars worth of trade insurance newly appropriated for the former Soviet Union last October has yet to be used, with less than 100 million dollars having been paid out to date.

Banks and trading houses have been particularly cautious about investing in the former Soviet republics, East European nations, and Central and South America, which carry a heavy debt burden.

A senior official of a commercial bank said, "we hesitate to propose to our board of directors to invest in nations with accumulated debts."

MITI's planned subcommittee will cooperate with international financial institutes and the United States in reviewing the country's trade insurance program, the MITI officials said.

It will study ways to reduce risks and what countermeasures to apply in case the governments of developing countries do not offer credit guarantees amid the increasing privatization of state-run enterprises, they said.

Financial Institutions' Investment Plans Noted

OW1206082492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0746 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 12 KYODO—Capital investment planned by financial institutions in fiscal 1992 totals 2.4 trillion yen, up a modest 2.9 percent over the previous year, the Bank of Japan reported Friday.

The central bank said the report was based on a survey of banks, brokerages, and insurers in May.

The survey showed planned capital investment represents a 2.3 percent decline from a previous poll taken in February, the bank said.

By industry, it said investment by 27 securities firms is 52.8 percent lower than the previous year, reflecting poor business results caused by the stock market slump.

Investment planned by 25 insurance firms is 14.8 percent higher than the preceding year, while that by 151 banks 0.2 lower.

Investment by banks, brokerages, and insurers in fiscal 1991 totaled 2.3 trillion yen, down 11.0 percent from the previous year.

The figure is 5.6 percent lower than the February survey because of cuts in real estate investment by insurance firms and a carryover of investment for automation by banks, the central bank said.

Panel Urges More Self-Regulation by Nonbanks

OW1506112192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1050 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 15 KYODO—A government advisory panel Monday called for more self-regulation by nonbank financial institutions, with tougher conditions on their loans and higher capital-to-asset ratios, Finance Ministry officials said.

The panel also called on the government to allow nonbanks to issue commercial paper to raise funds, on condition that the money not be loaned.

The panel, which advises the head of the ministry's banking bureau, recommended that nonbanks should set their own unified bookkeeping standards for securing sound management.

Nonbanks—such as trading, leasing, and consumer-finance companies—should refrain from lending to one clients more than their net worth and should boost their capital-to-asset ratios to a minimum 2 percent, it said.

The panel last October launched the discussions on improving the management of nonbanks following a series of financial scandals involving such institutions.

Nonbanks account for a sizable part of the financing business in Japan, with total loans of nearly 100 trillion yen at the end of March 1991.

The panel's recommendations are in line with recent moves in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the government toward tightening control on these institutions.

The LDP plans to submit a bill to the current Diet session aimed at augmenting the Finance Ministry's monitoring of nonbanks.

About 80 percent of nonbanks have loans outstanding that exceed their owned capital, and 76 percent of them have capital of less than 2 percent of their assets, according to the Finance Ministry.

Mongolia

Economic Measures Ordered To Combat Crisis

LD1106135992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1145 GMT 9 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dugar Sandzhiyev]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 9 Jun—Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat, Mongolian head of state, instructed the government and presidential-related structures of executive power to take urgent measures to ensure that the population gets food and basic consumer goods. The president's decree has been provoked by an acute economic crisis in Mongolia generated by the transfer to a market economy and by a major upheaval in the countries with which it has extensively cooperated for decades.

To help the economy out of the deep crisis, it is envisaged, in particular, to provide overall support to all structures involved in the output of food and industrial goods for the people, irrespective of the type of their ownership. They will be offered substantial benefits and a target fund will be set up to encourage enterprise.

The enterprises specializing in such production have received the right to allocate their own raw materials and to freely enter the foreign market. It is envisaged to earmark at least 30 percent hard currency receipts for their needs. Barter exchange in trade and economic deals is encouraged.

There is a relief of up to 90 [as received] for three years on leasings and on tax on land plots not exceeding one hectare used for vegetable growing and other agricultural activity. Livestock breeders are exempt from compulsory state purchases of meat and milk from sheep on certain farms.

The Mongolian Government is instructed to provide immediate assistance to farms in processing grain at their own mills. Instructions have been passed to replenish, during 1992, state stocks of food, basic consumer goods, and medications.

The Cabinet of Ministers has been charged instructed [as received] to implement tough measures to curb all manifestations of monopoly activity by production and trade workers until the anti-monopoly law is passed. With this intention, it is envisaged to set up a state and public monitoring system to protect consumers' rights.

Enterprises specializing in producing winter clothes and shoes for children, felt, yurt timber frames, furniture, materials for animal-drawn and public transportation, consumer goods made of metal will receive comprehensive support. They will benefit from tax relief measures and, to encourage their activities, local self-government bodies have been instructed to open markets for food and everyday commodities.

Simultaneously, there has been an increases of up to 10,000 and 5,000 tugriks in fines specified in the Mongolian President's decree "On establishing the procedure for the distribution of consumer goods and food products and on increasing penalties for black marketeering" adopted in 1991.

New Banking Rules Levied To Control Cash Flow

LD1206125892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0608 GMT 10 Jun 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Bugar Sanzhiyev]

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 10 Jun—From now on all transactions involving more than 10,000 tugriks will be done without cash, through banks. The Ministry of Finance and the Mongolbank have decided to introduce this rule on 15 June to comply with the government's resolution on controlling cash circulation within the country, national radio reported today.

In accordance with this decision, heads of all businesses of all kinds were told to carry out an audit before 20 June and to hand in all surplus cash to the bank. For their part, banks were instructed to control cash circulations and ensure that it is handed in on time.

According to ARDYN ERH, the amount of money circulating in the country has grown by 400 million tugriks in the last five months, which does nothing to reduce the rate of inflation. According to the newspaper, in the last year alone the amount of money "roaming" the country in private hands, bypassing the banks, has increased by 19 times in comparison to 1986-1990.

Mongolia also introduced a new procedure for trade and services in hard currency today. Producers of high-quality goods and shops providing customers with the appropriate service will have the right to make use of this procedure.

North Korea

Spokesman Details 'Peaceful' Nuclear Program

SK1206143492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 12 Jun 92

[News statement by a DPRK Ministry of Atomic Energy spokesman released on 12 June—read by announcer]

[Text] The International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] first ad hoc [pijonggi] inspection was conducted from 25 May to 6 June according to the Nuclear Safeguards Accord signed between our country and the IAEA. Out of a desire to ensure that the IAEA's inspection was conducted smoothly, we opened up and even showed nuclear facilities that are not listed as targets of the Agency's inspection. This is clear evidence showing the integrity [chongbaeksong] of the nuclear plan of the government of our Republic and the consistency of its nuclear policy.

The IAEA's inspection team confirmed that in our country nuclear energy is utilized for the peaceful purposes of developing science and technology and the people's economy. The team also confirmed the achievements made by the scientists and technicians in our country's nuclear industry sector through self-reliance and expressed satisfaction over our sincere cooperation.

At this time, because the IAEA's first ad hoc [pijonggi] inspection was smoothly conducted as a result of sincere cooperation between us and the Agency, there are no more grounds to doubt the will of the government of our Republic for denuclearization.

The government of the Republic has carried out an antinuclear, peace policy since the first day of its founding. The antinuclear, peace policy of the government of our Republic is based on the basic principle of the chuche idea, which considers man to be of utmost value in the world, and is an important component of our Republic's external policy, whose basic principles are independence, peace, and friendship.

There is no change in the consistent position of the government of our Republic to actively push ahead with the development of nuclear power with the building of a nuclear energy industry as its basis.

The use of nuclear power only for peaceful purposes is a principled position maintained by the government of our Republic. Proceeding from the basic purposes of resolving the increasing demand for energy in the national economy, of rapidly developing the nation's science and economy, and of enhancing the people's material and cultural life, the government of our Republic formulated all nuclear plans and conducted scientific research of nuclear energy and development.

A radiochemical laboratory is under construction according to the peaceful nuclear power development plan based on the abundant uranium sources in our country. This laboratory will conduct research to effectively use and economize its nuclear fuel with a view to the future and will conduct scientific research to separate necessary radioactive isotopes for use in various domains of the national economy.

The law on nuclear power in our Republic firmly guarantees the active contribution of nuclear power to the development of the national economy and the protection of human life and health from radioactivity in building the nuclear power industry.

The government of the Republic is carrying out exchanges and technological cooperation with other countries for the peaceful use of nuclear power and for the domain of protection from radioactivity. Our government is also strengthening cooperation with international organizations, including the IAEA.

The government of our Republic, faithful to the lofty duties of the Nuclear Safeguards Accord which is assigned with the mission of preventing the danger of nuclear war and safeguarding the people's safety, will, in the future, too, sincerely continually accept IAEA inspections and will show our sincerity on peaceful nuclear development to international society.

Commentary Urges Inspections of U.S. Bases

SK1506032292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0025 GMT 15 Jun 92

[NODONG SINMUN 15 June commentary: "Where Does the Problem Lie?"]

[Text] The elimination of the nuclear war threat and the ensuring of a durable peace on the Korean peninsula are urgent demands that cannot be postponed. The DPRK has consistently called for, based on its antinuclear position for peace, the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. Making a series of fair and just proposals in this regard, it has been making all sorts of sincere efforts for realization of denuclearization and peace.

As a result of these sincere efforts, the first round of tentative inspection [pichonggi sachal] has recently been conducted by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] based on the nuclear safeguards accord signed between our country and the IAEA. During the tentative inspection, we disclosed all nuclear facilities, including those which are not on the agenda for IAEA inspection, in an effort to help the IAEA smoothly conduct the inspections. This is clear proof that shows the consistency and purity [chongbaeksong] of the DPRK's peaceful nuclear plan and nuclear policy to use nuclear energy only for the development of science and technology and the nation's economic development. The IAEA inspection team confirmed and expressed satisfaction with this.

We will continue to accept IAEA inspections sincerely in the future as well and sincerely cooperate so that the inspections may be conducted smoothly. By so doing, we will show to the international community the purity of our peaceful nuclear development and the truthfulness of our public promise which we have repeatedly made clear.

At present when IAEA inspections of our nuclear facilities are being conducted smoothly and when, accordingly, the DPRK Government's antinuclear position for peace and will for denuclearization are becoming even more clear, the United States and the South Korean authorities rave about our nonexistent danger of nuclear weapons' development and attempt to create a nuclear threat against us. This is really ridiculous. The problem is not that they continue to suspect us with an unfair and biased view, but that inspections should be allowed of the U.S. nuclear bases in South Korea in harmony with [sangung hage] the ongoing IAEA inspections of us.

It is an undeniable grim fact that the nuclear menace on the Korean peninsula results from the U.S. nuclear weapons brought into South Korea turning South Korea into a nuclear base. The menace has rapidly increased because the United States has continued its buildup of nuclear weapons and intensified various nuclear war provocation maneuvers. Therefore, to eliminate the nuclear menace on the Korean peninsula, the U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons in South Korea—being the source of the menace more than anything else—should be abolished.

In an effort to remove this source, which creates nuclear danger on the Korean peninsula, and to ensure durable denuclearization and peace, we joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and demanded that if nuclear inspection is to be conducted, a necessary procedure is the inspection of not only us but also the U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons in South Korea.

Needless to say, both sides must simultaneously remove doubts and concerns over the nuclear threat. The purpose of nuclear inspection is to remove such doubts and concerns by removing the nuclear threat and ensuring peace and security. Therefore, it is very logical that in step with the IAEA's inspection of us, the inspection of the U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons in South Korea must be allowed as a procedural matter.

The South Korean authorities released the so-called no-nuke declaration, the United States reportedly welcomed it. However, we do not know whether the nuclear bases and nuclear weapons have been in fact abolished.

We continue to have doubts about the U.S. nuclear threat. Therefore, we cannot but express deep concern about them. Since the United States promised to open its military nuclear bases in South Korea for inspection if we subjected ourselves to the IAEA's nuclear inspection, there can be no reason or pretext for the United States to not allow inspection of its bases.

While the United States says there are no nuclear weapons, it tries to prevent the inspection designed to confirm the existence of nuclear weapons. We cannot help but interpret it as having vicious intent.

The inspection of the U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons in South Korea must be allowed, and the North-South inspection designed to verify the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula must be conducted at the earliest possible date. Toward this end, the South Korean authorities must accept without delay our fair and reasonable demand that the North-South simultaneous inspection be conducted based on the principle of simultaneously dispelling doubt.

North-South inspection must be conducted between the North and South without interference of other countries. The United States and the South Korean authorities unreasonably insist on the so-called special inspection [tuksusachal], inspection of ordinary military bases, and inspection of equal numbers of sites. An overture to exclude the U.S. nuclear bases and nuclear weapons in South Korea from inspection is an unreasonable act designed to reject the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Some circles in the United States and the South Korean authorities are babbling about the nonexistent danger of our nuclear development and openly rave about the use of military power. Their ulterior motive is to provide a pretext for beefing up the policy of confrontation, using force to deliberately aggravate North-South relations.

If the United States and the South Korean authorities are truly interested in removing nuclear danger from the Korean peninsula and ensuring peace and security, they must accept our demand without delay.

Japanese Urged To Admit 1905 Treaty 'Fake'

SK1206154092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT 12 Jun 92

["Statement of DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang June 12 (KCNA)—That the "Ulsa five-point treaty" of 1905 the Japanese imperialists allegedly had signed with old Korea was a fake one has been confirmed once again by professors of history at Kim Il-song University recently.

In this regard a spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry issued a statement to the press.

He said:

Professors of history at Kim Il-song University found new evidence from HWANGSONG SINMUN, a newspaper of old Korea, that the "Ulsa five-point treaty" had not been concluded due to the then Emperor Ko Chong's refusal to endorse, sign and fix the royal seal to it.

The "Ulsa five-point treaty" which the Japanese imperialists claimed to have "concluded" in 1905 had no endorsement, signature and the royal seal of the then emperor and the emperor's signature on the "Chongmi seven-point treaty" allegedly "signed" in 1907 was a forged one. This surprising fact is undisputably supported by data released one after another.

Both "treaties" were forged documents which, in view of international law, had not gone through elementary procedures indispensable to the guarantee of legality of a treaty and had had no conditions as a treaty.

As is well known to the world, the statement of Ko Chong in 1907, the accusation by an emissary at the Hague International Peace Conference, Ko Chong's abdication of the throne and many other historical facts and a series of data preserved in the state historical archives of Japan bear testimony to it.

The "Ulsa five-point treaty" and "Chongmi seven-point treaty" and the 48 "royal decrees" promulgated on the basis of them were all forgery of the Japanese imperialists to "justify" their aggression and occupation of Korea by force of arms. It was indeed an extra-large fraud unprecedented in the world history.

The newly discovered historical materials undisputably prove that the Japanese imperialists' occupation of Korea was unlawful and illegal from the very beginning, their occupation of Korea began in 1905, not by the "Korea-Japan annexation" of 1910, and, subsequently, the period of their colonial rule over Korea was 41 years, not 36.

Such being a historical fact, the Japanese Government authorities are, however, trying to cover up by hook or by crook the crimes committed by Japanese imperialism in the past and avoid the liquidation of their past wrongs which is a hardcore problem in the normalisation of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations, making a far-fetched argument that the "treaties" between old Korea and Japan "were legally signed" in those days and "effectively enforced".

Any more efforts on the part of the Japanese Government authorities to conceal their past crimes, distorting the hard historical facts will only reveal in all their nakedness their political and moral baseness and shamelessness before the world.

They must honestly apologize for the crimes in the past and take a sincere attitude to correct the distorted history.

The entire Korean people at home and abroad will pay due attention to this and cope with it by the concerted efforts of the nation.

We shall arrange and confirm new materials now being discovered without let-up and take relevant steps.

TV Shows Japanese War 'Brutalities'

SK1406084592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0815 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] Pyongyang June 14 (KCNA)—Now the Korean Central TV is daily telecasting a video recording on brutalities committed by the Japanese imperialist aggression army against the Korean and other Asian nations during the Second World War.

People are grinding their teeth with vexation at the scenes of Japanese army tanks and soldiers in combat gear forcing their way into other countries, shooting people at random, hanging and throttling them, burying them alive and burning them en masse, the scenes showing bodies heaped up in streets, villages and on riversides.

The testimonies of Korean women who narrowly escaped death after being taken away by the Japanese imperialists as "comfort women for the army" make people's hearts burn with hatred for the Japanese imperialists.

Sim Mi-cha, an old woman now residing in Seoul, was taken to a police station and raped at the age of 16 when she disobeyed her teacher's instruction to embroider a national flower of Japan and embroidered instead a morning glory of Korea. Then she was delivered to an army "comfort house." According to her statement, a "comfort woman" had to serve scores of "imperial army" soldiers usually and many more when they returned from a battle.

When a "comfort woman" refused to comply with their demand Japanese imperialist aggressors mangled her breasts with swords and shot her, and when a woman got pregnant or contracted a venereal disease, they killed her without mercy.

Hwang Kum-chu, who also had been drafted as a "comfort woman," recalled what she suffered in Manchuria as follows:

"The Japanese officer said it was an order from 'his majesty emperor', an order from Hirohito, an order from the army, and his own order, threatening to kill me if I disobeyed. They stripped 'comfort women' naked and satisfied their carnal desire to the full. They made no exception of those bleeding or in a faint..."

The Koreans who had been taken away as "comfort women" numbered 200,000.

Not only the Korean people but also the world's conscientious women and people denounce the Japanese imperialists' brutalities.

The Japanese Government, however, is unwilling to liquidate the crime-woven past of Japan in good faith, and this shows that it is intending to repeat the past crimes.

If the Japanese Government authorities persist in the present stance, they would face condemnations and rejection from mankind.

Article Espouses 'Advantages of Socialism'

SK1406091392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0828 GMT 14 Jun 92

["NODONG SINMUN on Superiority of Socialist Economic System to Capitalism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang June 14 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN Saturday [13 June] carries an article titled "Incomparable Advantages of Socialism in Achieving Economic Development and Prosperity" contributed by academician Chon Yong-sik.

The author says:

The developed capitalist countries entered a road of capitalist development from long ago, have a history of hundreds of years of industrial construction and gained "material prosperity" by craftily exploiting their people and bleeding the people of the developing countries white by a neo-colonialist method.

But the socialist countries started the building of a new society after taking over too backward economy, could not concentrate big efforts on the economic construction from the start because of the protracted rigorous struggle against the enemies at home and abroad and the ceaseless war manoeuvres and economic blockade of the imperialists and had to direct not a few efforts to the realisation of internationalist cooperation, too.

The capitalist countries which could develop economy and technology in a certain period are now undergoing a deep going economic stagnation and crisis.

The rate of economic growth in the developed capitalist countries last year failed to reach even 1 percent and production in many of them is on a steady decline and the rate of unemployment is going up to the mark of 10 percent or has already gone beyond it.

Our socialist economic system is proving to be essentially advantagous to the capitalist economy.

The rate of economic growth on an annual average in our country in recent years was 8 percent.

It is very high in view of the fact that we have promoted economic construction by our own efforts under the unfavourable situation where the country still remains divided.

The advantages of socialism in achieving economic development lie in that it is possible to give fullest play to the creative ingenuity of the popular masses under the leadership of the party, remove the anarchy of production and develop the country's economy purposefully and in a planned way.

We will keep a firm hold on the economic theory of chuche and the great Taean work system, strengthen the party's leadership and the state's centralistic guidance in economic management, carry through the revolutionary mass line of our party, make a full use of economic levels, increase economic effectiveness and develop science and technology so as to maintain a high rate of economic growth.

Factories Double Production of Mining Equipment

SK1306153392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1518 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Pyongyang June 13 (KCNA)—A great productive upswing has been effected at factories and enterprises under the General Bureau of Mining Machine Industry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

According to data available, the production of mining equipment doubled in June as against the same period last month, taking the General Bureau as a whole. Production of electric cars grew more than 2 times, chain conveyers 3 times, rock-drills 1.3 times and coal hutches 2.5 times.

The May 10 general works overfulfilled its May plan and is registering successes in the production of large winches, conveyers and coal cutters.

Production at the Chonchon rock-drill factory is 1.3 times that of May and the September 28 factory is producing much more pumps than in May, an all-time high.

Besides, the Changsan electric apparatus factory, the Sariwon mining machine factory, the Pyongyang coal mining machine factory, the East Pyongyang machine factory, the Hoenyong coal mining machine factory and other factories are taking the lead in carrying out their assignments for June set higher than the previous mouth.

South Korea

U.S. Urged To Ease Antidumping Investigations

SK1406122892 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 13 Jun 92 p 7

[Text] ROK business figures are planning to jointly cope with U.S. business figures' trade pressure on the ROK, such as the unreasonable antidumping investigations, now that a balance has been achieved in trade between the two countries. The ROK business figures also are to ask the U.S. business figures to cooperate with them to reduce their trade deficit with Japan.

An official from the ROK committee (whose chairman is Ku Pyong-hoe, chairman of Lucky-Goldstar Company) to the fifth ROK-U.S. business conference to be held in Seoul from 14 to 16 June, speaking on this issue on 13 June, said that at the conference the ROK side will explain to the U.S. side the situation in which the trade between the two countries has achieved a balance because of our consistent efforts to open markets. The ROK side will therefore request the U.S. side to ease trade restrictions on ROK goods, such as unreasonable antidumping investigations.

ROK exports to the United States decreased from $21.4 billion in 1988 to $18.6 billion in 1991, while ROK imports from the United States increased from $12.7 billion to $18.8 billion, thereby resulting in a trade deficit with the United States last year.

Therefore the ROK industrialists will express their worries at the conference over the massive antidumping charges by U.S. business figures against ROK steel and semiconductors and over the protectionist tendency of the U.S. Congress with the U.S. presidential election approaching and will request the U.S. side to withdraw its demand that the ROK open the financial and communications markets ahead of schedule and even open the rice market.

The ROK business figures also will propose that the conference form a technological working subcommittee to promote U.S. technology transfers to the ROK to intensify industrial and technological cooperation between the two countries. They are also planning to propose specific cooperative plans to jointly explore markets in Mexico and to jointly develop oil fields in the northern region.

Meanwhile, the U.S. side is expected to request the ROK industrialists at the conference to cooperate on the opening of the communications market ahead of schedule, stepping up the protection of intellectual property rights, and opening beef and rice markets, on the grounds that ROK has not opened some markets wide enough, despite its consistent efforts for opening markets so far.

Participating in the ROK-U.S. business conference from the ROK side will be 59 people, including Ku Pyong-hoe, chairman of Lucky-Goldstar Company; Chong Se-yong, chairman of Hyundai Business Group; Cho Sok-nae, chairman of Hyosung Business Group; An Sung-chol, chairman of board of directors of the Citizen's National Bank; and Hong Chae-hyang, governor of Korea Exchange Bank. Participants from the U.S. side will include 53 people, including David Roderick, former chairman of USX Steel (chairman of the U.S. committee); Donald Myers, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in the ROK; and John Hinds, president of AT&T International.

Discord Over Intellectual Property Rights Renewed

SK1306054192 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 13 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] Breaking a temporary lull, the United States is renewing pressure to open Korean markets wider and to protect the intellectual property rights [IPR] of American firms operating here.

The U.S. Trade delegation, led by Nancy Adams, deputy assistant of the U.S. Trade Representative, who failed to narrow differences with Korean agricultural officials on the beef import quota Thursday, called yesterday on the Korean government to guarantee protection of U.S.-made records, videotapes, books and computer software.

In the working-group meeting held at the Ministry of Trade and Industry [MTI], the American chief delegate said that although the legal system of Korea's copyright protection is nearing completion, its implementation has shown little progress leaving much room for infringement of IPRs.

She then called for stamping out Korean copycats through stepped-up crackdown.

The Korean delegation, led by No Chang-u, director general of MTI's Trade Cooperation Bureau, stressed that the eradication of IPR-related crimes requires more time as it should be accompanied by basic change in the public's consciousness on IPRs.

Adams, while pointing out that the Korean Ministry of Culture has overlooked imports of records and video tapes by forged documents, called for prevention of such practices and canceling the business licenses of firms found guilty.

MTI's No responded that the Korean Culture Ministry is doing what it can but said that actual screening is impossible, according to officials who were at the meeting.

The chief Korean official also suggested that the Seoul government would positively examine U.S. proposals on review methods if the latter makes a recommendation and that it would nullify the licenses if the U.S. side comes up with the forged papers.

The U.S. party also said even large Korean firms often tend to copy U.S. computer programs unlawfully, which she said was in part attributable to the authorities' leniency.

"Illegal copiers are punished under the law," No was quoted as saying. "But, as is the case in foreign countries, software piracy is an offense that can be prosecuted only when complaints are filed, thus there is a limit for watertight protection."

On U.S. allegations that there has been an increase in the number of bogus brand goods picked up by the Korean government, the Korean official said the U.S. Customs Office's inspection ratio of imported goods from Korea fell from 1.1 percent to 0.7 percent.

The rekindled trade dispute appears to be also aiming at improving the protection of trade secrets and computer chip design know-how, according to ministry sources requesting anonymity. The friction may have some relationship with changes in the economic and trade climate in America.

IAEA Finds DPRK Nuclear Safety 'Defective'

SK1506083392 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 15 Jun 92 p 1

[By reporter Choe Maeng-ho from Vienna]

[Text] It has been found that the design, radiation shielding systems, cranes, protective devices, waste disposal sites, and safety control systems of North Korean nuclear facilities are seriously defective.

Officials concerned at the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] pointed out on 15 June [date as published] that the activities in North Korea by a delegation led by Hans Blix, IAEA director general, and the IAEA's first inspection team and the examination of the video tapes which the North Korean authorities had shot for the IAEA reveal that the North Korean nuclear facilities are 40- to 50-year-old models, that their design is shoddy, that radiation shielding standards are not uniform, and that North Korea's safety standards, which are below the general international standards, are not reliable.

In connection with this, the ROK delegation to the IAEA Board of Governors and the IAEA has decided to present the North Korean nuclear facilities safety issue at a meeting that opened that day.

A correct analysis of the North Korean nuclear facilities is not available. An IAEA official concerned said: "The design of the North Korean nuclear facilities based on what is called chuche is clearly substandard."

In connection with this, another IAEA official said: "North Korea's nuclear facilities and equipment were all designed and manufactured at plants near Pyongyang." He also said: "There is no independent supervisory organization nor control committee in North Korea that monitors and supervises the safety of the nuclear facilities. This is worrisome."

North Korea built a 5-megawatt experimental nuclear reactor patterned after the graphite reactor built by Great Britain and France in the 1950's. North Korea is now building one 50-megawatt reactor and one 200-megawatt nuclear reactor patterned after the 5-megawatt reactor.

An IAEA official concerned said: "It was found that many of the fuel rods in the 5-megawatt experimental nuclear reactor had been damaged and that the design of this reactor was partially changed after the Chernobyl incident in the former Soviet Union."

This official also stated: "It has been revealed that North Korea's radiation shielding systems in its nuclear reactors are inferior to those of the advanced countries; that the thickness of the nuclear disposal facility is not uniform; and that there are no protective devices when moving large cranes carrying nuclear waste."

At an unofficial briefing on 10 June, Director General Hans Blix revealed: "We notified North Korea of the willingness to cooperate with it in planning effective and commercially viable nuclear reactors and to secure the safety of the nuclear reactors." This indirectly hinted that the IAEA is not satisfied with the safety of North Korea's nuclear reactors.

The ROK delegation participating in the IAEA Board of Governors meeting that will continue through 18 June is planning to urge the IAEA for thorough inspection and is also planning to urge North Korea to sincerely abide by the international agreement and to accept mutual inspection between South and North Korea. This is because regardless of the first on-the-spot inspection by Director General Hans Blix and his party, the misgivings about North Korea's nuclear development have not been eliminated but rather increased.

Regarding the strengthening of safety measures, the IAEA is proposing that reporting on the production and import and export of nuclear weapons and nonnuclear materials must be imposed as a duty. In this connection the IAEA is also proposing that an international agreement on nuclear safety be established to enhance safety.

Defector Cited on Contaminated Yongbyon Workers

SK1306103992 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 13 Jun 92 p 1

[Article by Moscow-based correspondent Kim Kuk-hu: "Testimony by North Korean Sergeant Major Who Defected to Russia"]

[Text] International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities pointed out the great possibility of leakage of radioactive materials due to a lack of safety facilities. It is noteworthy that simultaneouly a witness stated that employees and soldiers who operate and guard North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear facilities, their families, and residents are suffering from symptoms of radioactive contamination.

Kim Chol-ho (pseudonym; details of his personal data are being withheld for safety reasons), who served in the North Korean People's Army as a sergeant major for more than 10 years, revealed this. He worked earlier in a North Korean logging work site in Siberia of the former Soviet Union. Kim Chol-ho recently deserted to a CIS republic and is seeking asylum.

In the past there were assertions by some people of the possibility of radioactive leakage and contamination at North Korea's Yongbyon nuclear facilities, but this is the first time a North Korean who personally witnessed it has given concrete verification of contamination.

Kim stated that "researchers and soldiers and their families who work in Yongbyon area, including the Yongbyon Nuclear Power Research Institute, as well as residents, are suffering from unidentified diseases. Most of them discharge yellow urine, are vomiting, and have symptoms of loose bowels." He added he heard that some people died of such symptoms.

Kim said that he heard from those who work on the spot that they already manufactured a nuclear detonation device but did not complete production of nuclear warheads that are needed for actual war. They said that they dug deep tunnels in mountains near Yongbyon and concealed important nuclear raw materials and equipment in these tunnels.

Kim said that North Korea describes this nuclear facility site in Yongbyon as the "Pungang district" when talking to those not involved in the project. Nuclear power research and management of nuclear facilities are under the jurisdiction of the 43d Brigade (official name of the Korean People's Army) which consists of members of the State Defense Commission, the People's Security Forces and Ministry of Public Security. This brigade is also called "Kim Chong-il's Detached Force." When this unit was organized, it was composed of those who were discharged from the People's Army and whose socioeconomic class background were carefully investigated. They were forced to take an oath of secrecy and loyalty as they maintained a military status.

When he served in the People's Army, Kim himself was a sergeant major who was in charge of planning military training and simulated war between units. Therefore, he visited the units that were in charge of research, experiments, management and protection of Yongbyon nuclear facilities many times, and personally witnessed the patients. He stressed that before he left for Siberia, he heard detailed accounts about the real status of radioactive contamination from his friend (master sergeant) who was working in Yongbyon's nuclear facilities.

Dr. Sin Song-taek (42), a nuclear expert of the [ROK] Defense Research Institute, said, "as a result of careful analysis of the IAEA inspection team videotapes on Yongbyon area nuclear facilities, I noted that the safety facilities are extremely poor and there is the possibility of radioactive leakage. Thus, Kim's testimony is reliable and I am extremely surprised."

In particular, Dr. Sin said: North Korea's nuclear facilities are like those of Chernobyl, which use natural uranium as well as a graphite deceleration cooling reactor. These facilities lack safety factors. Advanced nations in the West call for dismantlement of this type of nuclear reactor to prevent damage both to human life and the environment.

He added that if proper safety facilities are not installed when storing underground nuclear processing facilities and fuel, including hot cells, instruments, and equipment, then radioactivity cannot be detected even if it leaks.

Paper Claims DPRK Nuclear Program Exaggerated

SK1306122492 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 13 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] The lame-duck phenomenon prevailing in the later years of No Tae-u's term in office is also evident in the government's policy toward North Korea. As a result, overall North-South relations have been distorted or deadlocked.

In particular, some hard-line government officials have exaggerated information on North Korea's nuclear issue and other matters in North-South relations. Some media organizations have even joined them. These actions have negatively influenced public opinion and policy decisions.

A high-ranking government official concerned said on 12 June: "Upon seeing the result of the International Atomic Energy Agency's [IAEA] recent inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities, the government concluded that North Korea's nuclear development has not reached a worrisome level." He also said: "The biggest obstacle to North-South nuclear negotiations is opinions by some hard-line government officials as well as those media organizations who chime in with these officials.

This high-ranking official also said: Some media organizations, without accepting a Foreign Ministry official's 11 June explanation that "North Korean nuclear facilities are very defective," have only reported remarks by an anonymous government official. As a result, the media have led the government to assume a hard-line attitude. This is worrisome.

He also said: "Therefore, the 11 June meeting to discuss measures for the Joint Nuclear Control Committee also extensively discussed having a single channel to the media."

Referring to North Korea's nuclear program, this high-ranking official said: "Given the fact that North Korea's nuclear reprocessing facilities are outdated and that construction has been suspended with only 40 percent of the construction completed, the government does not consider the facilities to be a violation of the joint denuclearization declaration." He also said: "The government is generally optimistic about North Korea's nuclear issue."

Chong Says IAEA Should Handle Nuclear Issue

SK1506085592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0734 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Tokyo, June 15 (YONHAP)—Just a few days after controversial remarks on communism, Chong Chu-yong has managed to raise eyebrows by offering a surprise remark on the North Korean nuclear issue.

In an interview with the Japanese magazine SAPIO, the businessman-turned-politician said the North Korean nuclear problem could be left to the U.S.-controlled International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Many independent observers here interpreted the remark by the president of the Unification National Party as a hint that there was no need for South Korea to involve itself in the issue.

The magazine, in its June 25 edition, quotes the presidential candidate as saying that "South Korea is not as well equipped with technical knowledge of the nuclear issue as the United States and does not fear nuclear weapons as much as the United States."

Chong caused an uproar early last week when he said it was time for South Korea to legalize the communist party.

Flow of Commodities From DPRK Increasing

SK1306044592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0127 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Seoul, June 13 (YONHAP)—The flow of commodities from North to South Korea is growing rapidly, while movement in the opposite direction shrank by a half during the first five months of the year, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Saturday.

In January-May, 6.53 million U.S. dollars of South Korean goods were transported to North Korea in 19 deals, down from 12.57 million dollars in five deals in the same period last year.

But 83.91 million dollars of North Korean products, up 36.6 percent, were brought in to South Korea in 151 deals.

In May, 21.19 million dollars of northern goods came to South Korea, while 160,000 dollars of southern goods flowed into North Korea.

Polyester textiles and polystyrene resin were the main items that went to North Korea.

South Korea bought 11.25 million dollars of North Korean cement, 2.89 million dollars of frozen conch, 2.84 million dollars of gold ingots and 2.03 million dollars of zinc ingots.

During the five months, South Korea bought 230,921 tons of North Korean cement worth 21.27 million dollars, up 174 percent from the amount for the whole of 1991.

Suppliers Unable To Reciprocate Low Prices

SK1506021392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0116 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Seoul, June 15 (YONHAP)—North Korea has set the prices of its goods so low that South Koreans can't resist them, but its attempt to get the South to reciprocate has run into problems.

North Korea is offering to pay 38 U.S. dollars each for car tires, but with the break-even price at 49 dollars it has been rebuffed.

It wants sugar for just 380 dollars a ton, compared with a break-even price of 400 dollars, and laundry soap for 350 dollars a ton, 50 dollars lower than the international rate.

North Korea is, in general, asking South Korean suppliers to sell their products at the same price as Chinese goods regardless of the quality and the price in global markets, industry sources say.

In January-May, 6.53 million dollars of South Korean goods went to North Korea, half the 12.57 million dollars of the same five months last year.

The slowdown is partly because southern enterprises are more prudent in selling to North Korea for political reasons, including the nuclear issue, and partly because North Korea is seeking such unreasonably low prices, the sources say.

"As long as North Korea sticks to lower-than-international prices for South Korean products, an increase in shipments of southern goods to North Korea is unlikely unless the government makes up for the loss with the exchange and cooperation fund," one of the sources said.

Government Considers Reducing Trade

SK1506020092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0143 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Seoul, June 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea is cautiously considering reducing the volume of trade with North Korea if Pyongyang continues delaying settlement of nuclear issues, a highly- placed government official said Monday.

"As long as North Korea fails to show sincerity, it had better give up its expectations of economic cooperation with the South," the official said.

"If North Korea does not change its attitude, the indirect inter- Korean deal, which has been expanding rapidly since October 1988, would be hurt too," he added. The North, desperately short of hard currency, has earned a substantial profit from its merchandise trade with South Korea.

Trade, mostly via agents in Hong Kong or other countries, totaled 306.07 million U.S. dollars by the end of April, with purchases by the North at 37.34 million dollars and the South at 268.73 million dollars.

If Pyongyang does not settle the nuclear issue, the South Korean Government may adjust the list of items for trade with the North that are either approved automatically after a review by financial institutions or approved after negotiations with the national unification board or other government authorities, the official said.

The government will also suspend indefinitely Daewoo Business Group's dispatch of a team to the North to prepare for construction of a joint-venture factory.

Future Exchanges Based on Political Issues

SK1506062792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0603 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Seoul, June 15 (YONHAP)—Deputy Prime Minister Choe Ho-chung said Monday it was undesirable for South Korea to proceed with economic exchanges with North Korea while political, military and other questions were on hold.

Choe, who is also National Unification Minister, indicated the South Korean Government intends to link the North Korean nuclear question with other issues.

He was speaking at the fifth meeting of the Korea-U.S. Business Council, being held for three days from Sunday for talks on financial market opening, technological cooperation and intellectual property.

Explaining economic cooperation between South and North Korea, Choe said the South Korean Government was pushing for exchanges on a long-term basis and in stages, rather than for short-term profits.

The government would promote reunions of separated families and cultural exchanges in parallel with efforts to resolve the nuclear, and military and political issues, he said.

Choe, however, declared that if suspicions that North Korea might be developing nuclear weapons proves to be true, it would be a "grave problem" threatening the peace and stability of all.

Unless such suspicions were completely dispelled through inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency and simultaneous inspections by the two Koreas, Choe said, there couldn't be substantial economic exchanges between the two.

Moreover, if South Korea was only trying to sell its products or take advantage of cheap labor in the North, inter-Korean economic cooperation could head in a wrong direction, Choe said.

It was desirable, he said, for both sides to build up a mutually agreeable political and economic system and trust and confidence before starting with small-scale joint enterprises.

No Tae-u Urges Revision of Local Election Law

SK1206122992 Seoul YONHAP in English
0725 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Seoul, June 12 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Friday that political parties should do their utmost to revise the local election law so that elections of provincial governors and city mayors could be postponed until 1995.

No said he had decided to postpone the elections because it would be too much of a social and economic burden on the nation if it was forced to hold four major elections in one year.

"That was why I announced the postponement of the local elections during my New Year's Day press conference and asked the 14th National Assembly to decide on it," No said.

No noted that his administration has already sent a revision bill to the National Assembly but political parties could not, ironically, open the nation's unicameral legislative body over the local election issue.

The president made the remark during his regular weekly meeting with Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and its presidential candidate, at Chongwadae.

No's comment came on the last day on which the government was to notify the public of the date of local elections, which must be held by the end of this month by the existing law.

The 14th National Assembly came into existence on May 30 and, by the parliamentary law, it was obliged to hold the opening session within 28 days. But the opening is being delayed due to the protest of opposition parties which insist on holding the local elections this year.

Jumping on the passing deadline for the public notification of the local elections, opposition parties threatened Friday to bring impeachment proceedings against the president and cabinet ministers concerned for breaking the election law.

The government, meanwhile, bought advertising space in daily newspapers Friday and explained the position of the government and ruling party on the postponement of the local elections.

In any event, the ruling and two opposition parties decided Thursday to hold a meeting of three senior party officials Monday to overcome the current deadlock for the opening of the National Assembly.

The prospects for an early opening, however, appeared bleak as opposition parties, especially the Democratic Party, insist on holding the local elections with the presidential election in December, at the latest.

Elsewhere, in an effort to quell mounting criticism against so-called briefings by cabinet ministers for Kim Yong-sam on government affairs, Kim's top secretary Choe Chang-yun said they had nothing to do with grooming Kim for the presidency.

"The briefings went on in the past," he said. "They were done for policy coordination between the administration and the ruling party."

Despite rumors of an imminent suspension of the practice, Choe said they would continue.

Meanwhile, Rep. Choe Hyong-u, a close associate of Kim Yong-sam, met with Rep. Pak Chol-on, one of the leading supporters of Yi Chong-chan, erstwhile candidate for the DLP's nomination for president, Thursday afternoon.

Choe declined to disclose details of his talks with Pak, but informed sources said he could have tried to persuade Pak to support Kim Yong-sam for a concerted party effort to win the presidential election. Kim Yong-sam had already met Pak and was said to have asked for his cooperation in election campaign.

Opposition Launches Offensive

SK1306060592 Seoul YONHAP in English
0505 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Seoul, June 13 (YONHAP)—The opposition parties went on the offensive Saturday, charging the government and the ruling party with violating the election law by failing to carry out legal procedures to hold local elections this year.

Under the law on elections for provincial governors and city mayors, the government was required to put out a public notice by June 12 for the local elections to be held before June 30.

The government and the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] ignored and missed the deadline, however, after deciding to postpone the local elections until 1995 for economic reasons. But as they had not amended the election law, they ended up breaking it.

Jumping on this opportunity, the main opposition Democratic Party and the Unification National Party entered what they called the first phase of an offensive against the ruling party and the government with newspaper advertisements, outdoor hearings and speeches.

The two opposition parties also reaffirmed their determination not to attend the opening session of the National Assembly unless the DLP and government agree to hold the local elections this year, possibly together with the presidential election in December.

The DLP and government, meanwhile, bought advertising space in newspapers Friday under the name of the home affairs minister to explain why they want to postpone the elections. On Saturday, the DLP began to step up its efforts to persuade the general public to agree with the government on the issue.

The ruling and opposition parties have scheduled a meeting of their senior officials Monday to help open the National Assembly, but the opposition parties said Saturday they may have to boycott the meeting if the DLP does not show a change in its position.

Kim Tae-chung, leader of the Democratic Party, offered a compromise Saturday when he proposed holding the local elections this year but shortening the terms for governors and mayors by one year so that the country can hold the next elections in 1995 along with the elections for members of local assemblies. Under the current election law, terms for governors and mayors are four years.

Speaking in a political debate, Kim said he was making the proposal because the ruling party seemed to be determined to hold the local elections with the elections of local assemblymen, which are scheduled for 1995.

In a related development, the DLP was reported Saturday to be studying the possibility of opening the National Assembly unilaterally by late June if the opposition refused to cooperate.

The Democratic Party, in the meantime, held press conferences and public lectures in Inchon, Kwangju, Suwon, Chunchon, Chunju and Cheju and explained the unjustifiability of the postponement of the local elections.

The opposition party also advocated a political stability, revitalization of local economies and balanced development of national land, and fair and clean elections.

The Unification National Party held a meeting of senior party officials and reaffirmed its resolution to hold the local elections this year. It is considering launching a signature campaign for the local elections, officials said.

Election System Reorganization Planned

SK1306032592 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 13 Jun 92 p 3

[Text] The government plans a sweeping reorganization of the election management system as it expected more frequent elections in the future with full implementation of the local autonomy system.

The Ministry of Home Affairs decided yesterday to drastically change the election management system based on a report compiled by team which returned from an overseas inspection trip.

The team, which comprised officials from seven government, political and private organizations, and the Central Election Management Committee (CEMC), surveyed the election management in Japan, the United States, France and Switzerland last month.

The revamp of the election management system will feature, among other things, computerization of ballot counts, legalization of the period of official campaigns and increasing the number of polling stations.

A senior official said that redressing the system was aimed at effectively dealing with the increased work loads stemming from more frequent elections including those for selecting local councillors.

The ministry plans to fix specific election dates days every year so that the CEMC offices may make up voter lists on the basis of the designated dates.

It will increase the number of polling booths, according to its reform plan, dividing 6,907 polling stations where individual voter lists contain more than 3,000 names.

The official said that the ministry would also introduce individual stumping rallies instead of joint campaigns because joint rallies will be impossible, in case general and provincial elections are simultaneously held.

Voters will check ballot papers usable for optical mark reader (OMR) with mercury ball-point pens, not Chinese brush tips as they do at present.

The OMR ballot sheets, he added, are the first procedure in computerizing ballot counting.

The ministry will offer its overall reorganization plan to the ruling and opposition parties, and the CEMC as early as possible after reviewing it.

DP 'Cooly' Responds to Revisions

SK1406035692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 14 Jun 92 p 2

[Text] The largest opposition Democratic Party [DP] yesterday responded coolly to the election-watchdog Central Election Management Committee's [CEMC] proposed amendment to the Presidential Election Law.

The proposal lacks drastic measures to block government agencies from engaging in campaigning, said DP spokesman Chang Sok-hwa in a statement.

Chang said the proposed shortening of the official campaign period and limits on the scale and number of partisan rallies would hinder free contact between candidates and voters.

He charged that the CEMC proposal failed to include policy debates through news media as a legal method of campaigning.

But the main opposition party welcomed the proposed improvements in the methods of military absentee voting and prohibition of public officials from supporting certain candidates, the spokesman said.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party and the opposition Unification National Party did not immediately respond to the CEMC proposal.

The election watchdog finalized and released its proposal to amend the Presidential Election Law Friday.

The proposal will be submitted to the new National Assembly as soon as it goes into session, a CEMC spokesman said.

The CEMC would change the method of absentee balloting and prohibit public officials from speaking for or against candidates.

The committee's "idea" shortens the 30-day campaign period for the presidential election to 21 days and limits partisan activities.

It seeks to rectify problems in previous elections and hopes to have its ideas reflected in an amendment bill soon to be negotiated among political parties.

The most striking idea is the change in absentee voting. In presidential elections, military personnel will not cast their absentee ballots on camp at polling posts managed by their units but at off-camp voting stations controlled by local election committees.

The hope is to prevent election allegations rigging in the military that rocked past elections.

Soon after the March 24 general elections, where controversies over rigging were louder than ever, the CEMC felt the need for a better method of absentee voting and asked the Defense Ministry to discuss some possible changes.

The ministry did not offer any opinions, leaving the matter to the election committee.

The CEMC's idea includes counting absentee ballots mixed with regular votes on the ground that if they were counted separately there still could be elements of the military that wanted to display their "unflagging loyalty."

Political watchers point out that this violates the provisions of the National Assembly Election Law, which stipulates separate counting of absentee ballots to make it easier to spot vote rigging.

To prevent intervention by public authorities, the CEMC wants to enact strict neutrality of all public officials and military officers.

It bans all public figures from speaking for or against any candidate in any manner, and makes it illegal for them to give any advice on campaigning.

This clause aims at stamping out the "educational lectures" that military officers give to their men prior to elections, during which some have allegedly indicated a preference for a specific candidate.

It also targets the practice of policemen influencing voters in their areas.

The committee seeks to continue to ban news media from endorsing certain candidates.

After heated debate, the CEMC resolved to keep outdoor campaigning but ban outdoor speeches during the last three days of election campaigns to stop candidates for president from charging allegations at each other without allowing time for a response.

Kim Tae-chung Outlines Economic Policy

SK1306073192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0532 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Seoul, June 13 (YONHAP)—Kim Tae-chung, the presidential candidate of the main opposition Democratic Party [DP], said Saturday that he will wipe out real estate speculation and maintain retail price increases at 3 percent a year if he is elected president.

Kim, speaking in a political debate sponsored by the Citizens Coalition for Economic Justice, said his administration would also institute the so-called real-name system for all financial transactions.

Some politicians and financial experts have been advocating the real-name system, which would require the use of real names in an effort to wipe out money laundering and other illegal financial transactions that are a root cause of the burgeoning underground economy.

As for the development of industrial technology, Kim said he would spend 5 percent of the gross national product for research and development, up from the present 2 percent, and enlarge the scale of technical education.

On other economic measures, Kim said he would make the Bank of Korea independent, using real estate as collateral for loans for small- and medium-sized industries and dispersal of stock holdings by owners of large business groups for the separation of ownership and management.

Trying To Build New Image

SK1406040992 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Jun 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Kim Chang-yong]

[Text] While his ruling party rival Kim Yong-sam is being taught administrative affairs by one Cabinet minister and another, opposition presidential contender Kim Tae-chung, even reputed by his political foes for his "far-sighted" knowledge of state-governing, is spending much time on building a new image.

Kim Tae-chung, chairman of the Democratic Party [DP], has make-up artists powder his face lightly, is wearing bright-colored neckties and sports a handkerchief in his jacket pocket.

He also smiles a lot and uses jokes and humor more often than before in talks and addresses, all in his image-making scheme, dubbed the "new D-J (Tae-chung) plan."

The plan, aimed at making the 66-year-old opposition leader look younger and friendlier and at finding foothold in the middle class that refuses drastic change, does not merely stop at the level of appearances and gestures, but goes further to his political stance.

Distancing himself from hard-line dissidents and lowering the tone of his criticism of the No Tae-u administration, established by a popular vote about four years ago, Kim Tae-chung, or D-J as he is sometimes called, has succeeded in diffusing some rigid impressions of himself.

DP officials assess that his moderate approach, combined with a merger with Yi Ki-taek's splinter party, largely based in some Seoul and Pusan districts, gave a fresh momentum to the DP to expand its power base beyond Kwangju and Cholla Provinces and beyond the underprivileged in terms of income brackets.

Boosted by a surge in the March 24 Assembly elections, strategists have stepped up efforts to present the main opposition party nominee as a "mild and affectionate" man, not a hawkish politician for the December presidential vote.

"D-J had been widely portrayed as a combative politician in the course of his struggle against military dictators in the past decades. That image was further distorted by those in power who portrayed him as an agitator who objected to government policies for the sake of objection," DP vice spokesman Rep. Pak Chi-won says.

"Without correction of that bad image, he could not approach the middle class which favors moderate and gradual change and a calm and harmonious politics."

D-J enjoys formidable support in his native Honam area and in low-income districts of big cities, where voters account for about 28-30 percent of the total electorate.

With a support of 27 percent, he ranked third in the December 1987 presidential election in which No earned 37 percent and Kim Yong-sam 28 percent.

DP strategists think he must woo the support of the middle class to win the coming vote, reckoning it almost impossible to penetrate into Kim Yong-sam's southeastern Yongnam area—Pusan, Taegu and Kyongsang Provinces—amid still strong signs of regionalism.

Underfinanced and loosely organized in comparison with the government party, the DP is also trying hard to publicize D-J's personal qualifications which it thinks are better than any other presidential hopeful.

The eloquent and erudite Kim repeatedly proposed a television debate with his rivals in his 1987 campaign and is doing the same this time, whereas all other contenders have been reluctant to take him on.

The populist leader, shunned by conservative rightists for his brief communist career during his youth, has made another endeavor to appease his "veto" group—the military, in particular.

He nominated four retired generals for the National Assembly elections in March and kept an unusually low key stand with regard to vote rigging, reported in some Army units, despite harsh calls by unsuccessful candidates of his party for a much tougher position.

His appeasement policy seems to be working and former president Chon Tu-hwan, under whose rule he was jailed on sedition charges, gave D-J rate praise for his "moderate" political posture and erudition, in a meeting with Army general-turned-DP lawmakers last week.

DP officials believe that D-J has a better chance of winning this time than in his two previous attempts—in 1971 and 1987—with the improved Assembly status of his party and the "decreased" popularity of the Democratic Liberal Party that failed to maintain a majority in the March elections.

"The more candidates running, the better our party nominee's chances," one strategist said, adducing the support of D-J by approximately 30 percent of the electorate.

There is, however, a possibility that both his career in his early years may rekindle dispute over ideology in a country where the word communism is still largely associated with enmity and his firm base in the Honam area may prevent him winning much support in the rest of Korea, analysts say.

Yi Chong-chan Expected To Form New Party

SK1506094592 Seoul PUSAN ILBO in Korean 13 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] Lawmaker Yi Chong-chan is expected to officially declare the inauguration of a new political party and resign from the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] by the end of June.

One of Yi's closest associates said: About 20 chairmen of local chapters, including 3 incumbent lawmakers, will resign along with Yi. They have not yet decided exactly when to leave the party—19 June or 29 June. Lawmaker Yi will have the final say in deciding the date. He thus strongly hinted that they will leave the party before the end of the month.

Yi and his associates are reportedly planning to reorganize and expand the "New Political Meeting" inaugurated on 22 May as part of an effort to form a new political party, tentatively renaming it: "National Alliance for New Politics." The organization will have subordinate organizations of six departments and sections, including a secretariat and department for external cooperation, and local chapters in 15 cities and provinces.

This National Alliance for New Politics deserves attention as it will likely be instrumental in forming a new conservative party based mainly on the fraternity of independent lawmakers who are rallied around Chong Ho-yong, along with such elderly opposition statesmen as Yi Chol-sung, the former chairman of the New Democratic Party.

Cooperation Pact With Uzbekistan Planned

SK1506084092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0717 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Seoul, June 16 [date as received] (YONHAP)—South Korea and Uzbekistan will adopt a "Seoul declaration" pledging bilateral cooperation during Uzbek President Islam Karimov's visit, officials said Monday.

The declaration will be signed by Korean President No Tae-u and Islam after their summit talks Wednesday.

It will be the first of its kind between Korea and the republic since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Karimov is due Tuesday and leaves Friday at No's invitation.

The Seoul declaration will be very close in content to the Moscow declaration signed in December 1990 during No's visit to Soviet Union.

It will highlight economic cooperation between the two nations and include pledges for mutual benefit, the officials said.

Company Seeks Role in Vietnamese Development Plan

SK1506094492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0831 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Seoul, June 15 (YONHAP)—South Korea is endeavouring to take part in Vietnam's development and industry construction plan.

An Chon-hak, president of Korea Heavy Industries and Construction Co. Ltd., left for Hanoi at the invitation of Vietnamese Industry Minister Tran Lum Monday.

During his five-day visit, An will be escorted by Tran Lum to inspect construction machinery factories in Hanoi and they will discuss fields of development.

Plans for joint ventures and economic cooperation between the two countries are to be shared in this meeting.

Burma

Army Retaliates Against Kachin Insurgent Attack

BK1306142692 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] The State Law and Order Restoration Council has suspended offensives since 28 April 1992 in order to restore national solidarity and achieve amity among national races. Taking advantage of the suspension of offensives by the Defense Services, some KIA [Kachin Independence Army] insurgents attacked Nanyun and Pangsau camp on 5 June in the northern part of Sagaing Division.

As a result, the Defense Services retaliated and battles are taking place around the town of Nanyun.

Insurgents 'Fleeing'

BK1406140492 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] Defense Services columns have counterattacked the KIA [Kachin Independence Army] terrorist insurgents groups, which had attacked Nanyun in Northern Sagaing Division.

It is learnt that after engaging in several battles, the vicinity of Nanyun was cleared on 13 June.

It is also learnt that Defense Services columns are in hot pursuit of the fleeing KIA terrorist insurgents.

Narcotics Accord Signed With PRC, Thailand

BK1206150592 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] A project signing ceremony was held in the conference hall of the Myanmar [Burma] Agriculture Enterprise on Natmauk Road at 1000 today. The ceremony for signing the agreement on cooperation among neighboring countries of the subregion on prevention and suppresion of narcotic drugs was attended by representatives of the signatories—Myanmar, the PRC, the United Nations Drug Control Program [UNDCP], and Thailand.

Present at the signing ceremony were: Brigadier General Maung Maung, minister for livestock breeding and fisheries; Lieutenant Colonel Than Nyunt, deputy home affairs minister; Police Major General San Thein of the People's Police, secretary of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control [CCDAC]; directors general of the ministries concerned; a two-member UNDCP led by Mr. (Georgio Jacovali), executive director of the UNDCP; a nine-member PRC delegation led by Mr. Yu Lei, vice minister of the Ministry of Public Security; a five-member delegation from Thailand led by Police General Chawalit Yotmani, secretary general of the Anti-Narcotic Board of Thailand; a two-member observer delegation from the Narcotics Control Committee of the Lao People's Democratic Republic led by Mr. (Kou Chansima); Mr. Liang Feng, PRC ambassador to Myanmar; Mr. Wirasak Futrakun, Thai ambassador to Myamar; Mr. Kideng Thammavong, Lao ambassador to Myanmar; Mr. Gerd Merrem, resident representative of the United Nations Development Program; Mr. (John Christensen), resident representative of the UNDCP; and responsible officials from the CCDAC.

At the signing ceremony, Police Major General San Thein explained the details of the agreement and Police General Chawalit Yotmani, secretary general of the Anti-Narcotics Control Committee of Thailand; Mr. Yu Lei, vice minister of the PRC Ministry of Public Security; and Mr. Georgio Jacovali), executive director of the UNDCP; participated in the discussions. The ceremony ended at 1100 after the representatives of the signatory countries signed the agreement.

Khin Nyunt Meets Delegations

BK1306092292 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, received narcotic control delegations from the United Nations Drug Control Program [UNDC], the People's Republic of China, Thailand, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic at 0900 today at the Dagon Guest House of the Ministry of Defense.

Present at the meeting with Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt were: Lieutenant Colonel Than Nyunt, deputy minister of home affairs; Police Director General San Thein of the People's Police Force; U Ba Thwin, director general from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Colonel Than Tun, deputy director of the Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence.

Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt said during the meeting that the narcotic control program is being carried out in the interests of all humanity and that Myanmar [Burma] will cooperate with neighboring countries in making utmost efforts in drug control and suppression work in the region. He said the rest of the world should join in this endeavor being carried out in this one region in the interests of all humanity.

Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt added that narcotic control work entails three parts—production, trafficking, and consumption—and success in narcotic control work can be achieved only if all the work dealing with the three parts is synchronized.

Phone Myint Meets Thai Delegation

BK1206150992 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Police General Chawalit Yotmani, secretary general of the Anti-Narcotics Board of Thailand, who is currently in Yangon [Rangoon], accompanied by the Thai Ambassador Wirasak Futrakun, called on

Lietenant General Phone Myint, chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control [CCDAC] and minister of home and religious affairs, at the reception hall of the Ministry of Home Affairs at 1500 today.

Colonel Than Nyunt, deputy minister of home affairs, and responsible personnel were also present at the meeting.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Solution Needed for Singapore Fishermen Arrest

BK1506075192 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Thurs.—Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba said today that Malaysia does not want trivial matters to jeopardise good relations with Singapore.

He said the two countries would have to find an amicable solution to the problem of fishermen seeking their livelihood in the waters of the two countries, adding that warnings and harsh actions would get them nowhere.

"What we need is to talk and find a solution to the problem," he told reporters after attending Hari Raya Haji [sacrifice day] prayers at the National Mosque.

Ghafar was commenting on the arrest of seven Singapore fishermen by Malaysian authorities on May 28 and the subsequent warning by Singapore that it would not be lenient against Malaysian fishermen if Malaysia continued to make what it described as illegal arrests of the republic's fishermen.

Singapore had asked Malaysia to drop its charges against the seven fishermen, return their two boats and stop making such arrests in future.

Ghafar said Malaysian fishermen had also encountered problems at sea. They were from time to time confronted by the Singapore marine police.

"Being neighbours, these things are bound to happen but taking drastic steps will affect the good relationship of both countries," he added.

Ghafar said he would direct the relevant authorities to find out who was in the right or wrong before taking the necessary action.

"If we are in the right, then we will follow the normal procedure of charging them in court for the offence they committed," he added.

Commenting on Menteri Besar [chief minister] Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's statement yesterday that the State Government had submitted the case of the arrests to the Federal Government, he said:

"Whatever suggestion the State Government or the relevant authorities have to resolve the problem should be presented to the Cabinet so that a decision can be made."

Ghafar said currently there was close rapport between the two countries, especially on transportation and border crossings at the Causeway.

Sources said that the latest flare-up seemed to be localised, adding that it might have happened without the knowledge of Kuala Lumpur.

They said it might not even involve the Johor Government as economic cooperation and other substantive matters between Johor and Singapore were progressing at a satisfactory pace.

The sources added that the irritation over the imposition of Singapore road tax on Malaysian registered motorcycles appeared to have subsided and a new understanding had been reached on the use of Johor air space by aircraft taking off from Singapore.

This led the sources to speculate that the latest incidents might have been provoked by parties which are not linked to the Federal or State Government.

Singapore Media Urged To Be 'More Responsible'

BK1206135492 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] The minister of information, Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, says the mass media in Singapore should be more responsible in reporting issues that threaten relations between the republic and Malaysia. He expresssed regret that the media in that country had cultivated a feeling of hatred among Singaporeans for Malaysians. This will affect the good relations between both nations. The minister said the media should play an effective role in enhancing bilateral relations.

He told newsmen this after officiating a meeting of the Taman Cempaka UMNO [United Malays National Organization] branch. Datuk Mohamed stressed that whatever issues that cropped up between Malaysia and Singapore should be settled via consultations and not [words indistinct]. He said the official level committee found by both nations should be used to the fullest to solve any misunderstanding.

Singapore Jets Altitude Requirements Outlined

BK1306152192 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Jets from the Singapore Air Force, SAF, will have to fly more than 1,524 meters above Malaysian airspace after the two countries exchange a diplomatic note on flight procedures. Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said today the new procedures were agreed to by the republic's prime minister, Mr. Goh Chok Tong, at a meeting yesterday. Mr. Goh agreed that the new procedures are necessary for the safety of people in southern Johor. Datuk Sri Najib said that Mr. Goh received Malaysia's proposal well and indicated that there is no problem for the SAF to comply with the new procedures. SAF jets now have to gain altitude faster than usual.

Datuk Sri Najib told reporters this after attending a passing-out parade of Royal Malaysian Navy recruits in Woodlands, Singapore. He said the diplomatic note would be exchanged soon. The defense minister said guidelines which call on SAF jet pilots to increase their altitude after taking off from the Paya Lebar Airbase when flying over Malaysian airspace [sentence as heard]. The pilots are also urged to head for the sea immediately if the jets in flight are in trouble.

Mahathir Welcomes Anan as New Thai Premier

BK1206074992 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir says Malaysia is glad that Anan Panyarachun has been reappointed prime minister of Thailand. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir says Anan has been effective as the interim prime minister and believes that he will be equally effective this time. He said this to Malaysian newsmen when asked to comment on Anan's reappointment.

However, the prime minister added that the final resolution of the impasse is very much with the people of Thailand who will choose the next government. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said this in Rio where he is leading a high-powered Malaysian delegation to the Earth Summit.

Peacekeeping Force's Problem in Cambodia Viewed

BK1506081292 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Jun 92 p 10

[Editorial: "Sticking to Their Guns"]

[Text] When the UN-sponsored peace accord on Cambodia was signed in Paris last year by the warring factions, it was hailed as a positive step to get that battered country back on its feet and end the long and terrible suffering of the Cambodian people. After what that country has gone through during the last two decades or so nobody expected this course to be smooth sailing.

The United Nations mission to supervise the transition to normalcy, the most ambitious and costliest undertaking in the history of the organisation, involving more than 20,000 personnel with a price tab likely to exceed US$1.9 billion, gives some indication of the magnitude and the complexity of the task.

Now, after only a few months in the country and still at the initial stage of the implementation of the Paris agreement, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), the co-ordinating body, has met its first serious snag. Khmer Rouge, one of the signatories to the agreement, has informed UNTAC that it was not willing to place its guerillas under the latter's supervision in readiness for disarmament of all the warring parties.

Clearly, this about-turn by the Khmer Rouge from its earlier commitment will make an already difficult task more onerous for UNTAC and at this stage it is hard to fathom the Khmer Rouge's motive for taking this step. As UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi said prior to this the faction's leader Khieu Samphan went along with the establishment of the necessary checkpoints along the Vietnamese border and the deployment of UN troops throughout the country.

One may be forgiven for thinking that perhaps the Khmer Rouge is having second thoughts on the accord. Surely it cannot be unmindful that its action will trigger off a similar reaction from the other parties? Although they are ready to go ahead with the disarmament plans and regroup their forces in the specially prepared encampments as scheduled, they have already indicated that they would not go ahead with this plan if Khmer Rouge backs out.

It is hoped this latest move by the faction is, to quote Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, just a manoeuvre on its part to maximise its position before the actual process starts. If, however, it signifies a more sinister motive the implications are very serious indeed.

As pointed out by the UN military commander in the country, Lieutnat General John Sanderson, The UN peacekeepers were not mandated to enforce the Paris accord although protecting those factions which comply with the accord forms part of UNTAC's responsibility and, if attacked, his troops will fight back.

The immediate fallout will be a delay in the timetable of UNTAC while a flurry of activities is sure to follow to persuade the Khmer Rouge to rejoin the peace process. If this fails, the next steps of the process involving the holding of free election as well as the return of the refugees will be jeopardised and the United Nations may need to rethink its position.

Given the track record of the Khmer Rouge this latest development gives much cause for worry. At the very least the promised trip to democracy and peace for the Cambodians will take a little bit longer to accomplish than originally anticipated. At the very worst, the outcome is unthinkable. Let us hope reason prevails.

Minister on Support To Lift UN Sanction on Iraq

BK1506053292 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0332 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By Kuah Guan Oo]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, June 15 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Iraq has thanked Malaysia for its support for the lifting of the UN-imposed sanctions against that country on the importation of food and medicine, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi said here.

The Iraqi deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz, conveyed this to Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed when Tariq called on him Saturday, Abdullah said Sunday.

He said the Iraqi leader called for an understanding of the problems faced by the Iraqi people following the UN sanctions.

"Malaysia has always called for the lifting of the sanctions on food and medication on humanitarian ground for the sake of the Iraqi children.

"Malaysia has also called for the lifting of the sanctions so that Iraq could sell its oil to buy food and medicine," Abdullah said.

Abdullah said Malaysia's relation with Iraq is good. "There is nothing abnormal, it is just like our ties with other countries."

The prime minister of Cook Islands, G.A. Henry, also called on Dr. Mahathir Saturday.

Abdullah said the two leaders discussed the possibility of economic and trade ties between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South Pacific countries.

Dr. Mahathir, he said, told Henry that he would have to consider the proposal first because Malaysia could not decide on its own.

Henry told the prime minister that he found that Malaysia has adequate supply of goods that are value for money.

Singapore

Japan's Peacekeeping Operations Bill Opposed

BK1306054792 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 12 Jun 92 p 34

[Editorial: "Facing Up to the Past"]

[Text] Supporting Japan's desire to be involved in armed peacekeeping activities is like "giving liqueur chocolates to an alcoholic." Many Asians share Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew's concern, though no one has been as blunt as he—not even the Chinese and the Koreans. However, in spite of being aware of the anxieties of its Asian neighbours, the Kiichi Miyazawa government is intent on pushing the Peacekeeping (PKO) Bill through the Japanese Parliament. The Bill allows up to 2,000 Japanese troops to go abroad as United Nations peacekeepers. Introduced almost two years ago, it cleared a crucial parliamentary hurdle early this week when it was passed by the opposition-held Upper House after prolonged and bitter debate. In the government-dominated Lower House, it is expected to have a smoother ride.

Although Mr. Lee is well respected in Japan, its decision-makers are not persuaded by his metaphorical warning. Tokyo sees Japanese involvement in UN peacekeeping as an unobjectionable way to enhance the country's political status on the international stage. This is, it claims, but a national evolution for a country that is an economic superpower. In any case, the rest of the world expects Japan to assume greater responsibility for global peace and security. Stung by criticism that in the Gulf War it did not do enough to deliver Kuwait from evil since it provided only money and not people, Tokyo is convinced that sending Japanese troops overseas to keep the peace under UN auspices would answer such criticism. At the same time, it would allay the fears of its Asian neighbours of resurgent Japanese militarism because the troops would be part of a UN force.

But from South Korea, China, and Taiwan down to Southeast Asia, there is unease. It is indeed true that UN peacekeeping operations are not offensive in nature as they are meant to keep and not to enforce the peace. The blue berets are authorised to use their weapons only to defend themselves. However, the fact remains that peacekeepers are combat-trained soldiers. The PKO Bill would thus permit Japan to send combat troops overseas for the first time since the end of World War II. Having suffered Japanese aggression and lived under Japanese military occupation, many Asians do not wish to see this happen. They recognise that the Japanese commitment to do their best in anything they do—a commitment that underpins their economic success—can be translated to the military sphere, with dire consequences. Since they cannot stop the Japanese if they are set on joining UN peacekeeping operations, the second best solution would be, as Singapore has said, for the Japanese to confine themselves to the "tail" end of such operations—providing services such as food, medical supplies, and transport to front-line troops.

It is not the painful memories of past Japanese aggression that are at the root of Asian uneasiness. It is that Asians do not trust Japan. This stems from Japan's failure to face up squarely to the destruction it wreaked in World War II. Japanese leaders have in recent years made a half-hearted sort of apology—"self-remorse" and "contrition"—for the atrocities Japan committed in the war. But what still rankles many Asians is that it has taken Japan close to 50 years to acknowledge this. Unlike the Germans, the Japanese do not seem to have a strong sense of having done wrong; Japanese history textbooks continue to gloss over the past. The fact that the call by a senior Asian statesman like Mr. Lee for Japan to make a clean breast of things goes unheeded, reinforces the impression among many Asians that Japan feels no deep regret for what it called the "greater East Asia" war—except that it lost it. For the Japanese to be trusted, there must be this catharsis. Without it, any active peacekeeping role that it may wish to pursue would only send alarm bells ringing throughout East Asia.

Cambodia

Peace Plan Phase 2 Begins Without Khmer Rouge

BK1306093092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0912 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Kamchey Mea, Cambodia, June 13 (AFP)—The United Nations began Saturday the crucial second phase of the Cambodian peace plan as the main opposition Khmer Rouge remained on the sidelines, refusing to cooperate.

The head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), Yasushi Akashi, was here to observe the cantonment of local troops belonging to the Phnom Penh government, under protection of a Bulgarian military contingent.

Akashi said UNTAC would make certain that those factions that cooperated with the peace effort would not suffer at the hands of those refusing to take part. Nothing will be allowed to disturb the military situation, he added.

The Phnom Penh government, like the two non-communist resistance factions, has agreed to go ahead with the second phase of the peace plan, which calls for the cantonment and 70 percent disarmament of all the factions' troops.

The Khmer Rouge have refused to take part until the United Nations confirms that all Vietnamese troops have been withdrawn from the country.

The second phase is considered crucial to the peace plan, adopted in Paris last October and aimed at leading up to democratic elections next April or May.

Phnom Penh's defence minister Tie Banh said at the ceremony here, about 75 kilometres (47 miles) southeast of Phnom Penh, that the Khmer Rouge were continuing to violate the ceasefire and that his troops reserved the right to defend themselves.

UN General Reports Fighting Continues

BK1406091092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0834 GMT 14 Jun 92

[By Jean-Claude Chapon]

[Text] Phnom Penh, June 14 (AFP)—Fighting continued in Cambodia between Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh forces on the first day of the U.N. peace plan's second phase, a U.N. source said here Sunday.

General John Sanderson, military commander of the U.N. Transitional Authority for Cambdoia (UNTAC), told AFP that the fighting flared Saturday in northern Cambodia.

The Australian general said UNTAC had received reports of moderate fighting in various parts of Preah Vihear province, the site of steady clashes over the past several weeks.

Sanderson said the second phase of the peace plan, which began Saturday, was being only feebly implemented Sunday by the three factions that had accepted it.

Two non-communist factions comprising supporters of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and those of former prime minister Son Sann had conditionally agreed to go ahead with the second phase, as did Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge, the largest fighting force during the resistance movement, have refused to participate in the phase, under which armies are to regroup, disarm and, at a level of at least 70 per cent, demobilize.

The Marxist faction had agreed to the peace plan and signed it with the other three factions in Paris in October.

The aim of demobilising the factions' armies, totalling some 200,000 soldiers, is to create a neutral climate in the country ahead of general elections planned for April or May 1993.

The peace plan carries a price tag of some 2.7 billion dollars and envisages the presence of 15,000 U.N. peacekeeping troops and 4,000 administators in the country.

UNTAC sources say the start of this crucial phase of the plan was observed very lightly if at all, especially in the northwest of the country controlled by the two non-communist resistance factions.

Sanderson said that Khmer Rouge forces remained in these areas, which explained the two groups' reluctance to disarm.

He said that in some areas soldiers came to appointed camps, some with their arms, some without, but that in other areas no soldiers came forward.

The non-communist factions had set the condition that they be allowed to retain sufficient means to repel attacks by the Khmer Rouge.

UNTAC also accorded Phnom Penh the right of self-defense against the Khmer Rouge but asked that any counter-attack be commensurate with the initial attack.

"I don't know how long these factions could maintain this attitude" if the Khmer Rouge do not change their stance, Sanderson said.

The Khmer Rouge have refused to participate in phase two, demanding that UNTAC verify the total withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Cambodia, which they invaded in December 1978.

Hanoi announced a total pullout in September 1989, but the Khmer Rouge dispute the pledge.

UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi said Saturday at a camp receiving Phnom Penh troops that the door remained open to Khmer Rouge participation but was "gradually being closed" in the face of the intransigent attitude they have shown for the past several weeks.

"It is up to the (U.N.) Security Council to tell when it will be completely shut," he said.

Most diplomats here doubt whether the Khmer Rouge will soften their stance, which poses a threat to the future of the peace plan.

Tie Banh, Akashi Speak at Cantonment Site

BK1406111992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Summary from poor reception] At 1100 on 13 June, a ceremony was held at Krabau Commune in Kamchay Mea District of Prey Veng Province "under the chairmanship of His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]," to regroup all units of the Armed Forces of the State of Cambodia [SOC] in the province at an UNTAC-designated cantonment. The cantonment is under the protection of a Bulgarian military contingent.

Also attending the ceremony were "General John Sanderson, commander of the UNTAC forces; Gen. Tie Banh, SOC defense minister and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC]; Gen. Ke Kimyan, first deputy defense minister, chief of the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF], and chief of UNTAC's mixed military group [prathean krom yothea chamroh robas untak]; three-star Lieutenant General Phuong Siphan, deputy chief of the CPAF General Staff; Gen. Pan Thai, officer of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF]; Lt. Gen. Kruoch Yoeum, officer of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC]"; and several high-ranking UNTAC military and civilian officials. "Japanese, U.S., Indian, Indonesian, Malaysian, Bulgarian, and Hungarian diplomats, as well as some 50 foreign reporters," also participated in the gathering to witness "the first regroupment of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF]."

H.E. Yasushi Akashi, his delegation, and the guests were warmly welcomed by Mr. Yut Phuthang, chairman of Prey Veng Province's party committee and people's committee, and blue-bereted officers from Morocco, Hungary, Bulgaria, Indonesia, and the Philippines who are posted in the province.

After Colonel (Vong Siten), Prey Veng Province's military commander, presented a brief report on the general situation of the provincial armed forces, H.E. Tie Banh gave the following speech:

[Begin Tie Banh recording] On behalf of the CPAF and in my own name, I would like to pay our highest respects and express our deepest thanks to H.E. Yasushi Akashi, Gen. John Sanderson, and all the excellencies and gentlemen who have come and witnessed this regroupment of our CPAF. Since the signing of the Paris accord on 23 October 1991, "our SOC army has always had the goodwill and willingness to sincerely achieve peace and national reunification so as to enable the Cambodian people to determine their destiny themselves. At all times, the CPAF has abided by the cease-fire agreement with patience and displayed close cooperation with the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia, UNTAC, and other Cambodian parties in implementing every aspect of the accord as well as the principle and measures defined by UNTAC with the view of promoting the Cambodian peace process."

"Since the announcement on the start of the second phase of the cease-fire by Gen. John Sanderson, the SOC Army has meticulously and actively made preparations in compliance with the 12 steps announced by H.E. Yasushi Akashi with a view to enhancing coordination with UNTAC and other parties in the process of enforcing phase two of the cease-fire with effectiveness." And with the desire to see the second phase proceed in line with the UNTAC plan, "we have regrouped our troops for UNTAC verification in the areas where it is possible for us to act, even though other parties, specifically the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], have not yet begun implementation and have continued to commit truce violations against our side."

Availing myself of this opportunity, "I wish to extol the CPAF for its struggle and sacrifice over the past 13 years for the sake of the survival of the Cambodian nation and people." "Anyway, we still have, in spite of the regroupment, the right to defend ourselves in case we are violated militarily by any parties. I wish to call on all of you to, from now on, enthusiastically cooperate with UNTAC to effectively implement the accord in order to bring about genuine peace for the Cambodian motherland and people. Once again, on behalf of the Defense Ministry and officers and rank and file of the CPAF, and in my own name, I wish to reassure H.E. Yasushi Akashi, Gen. John Sanderson, and all the excellencies and gentlemen of the CPAF's consistent stance to implement the Paris peace accord and the second phase with all sincerity for national reunification and peace in Cambodia." I would like to thank Prey Veng Province's people and authorities for their support and assistance to the CPAF and wish the UNTAC guests all the best. [end recording]

After H.E. Tie Banh's address, H.E. Yasushi Akashi took the floor and said:

[Begin Akashi recording in English, fading into Cambodian translation] I would like to thank Colonel (Vong Siten) for his warm welcome and express my heartfelt gratitude to H.E. Tie Banh, defense minister of the SOC, for his greetings. "As we can see with our own eyes, the process of regrouping troops has begun today, 13 June 1992, as scheduled." I wish to ask all of you to firmly believe that the international community is fully committed to bringing this peace process to a final successful conclusion. "And I would like to tell Defense Minister Tie Banh and other military leaders that they are showing a good example of their full compliance with the Paris accord."

Yesterday, the UN Security Council issued a statement stressing the need to implement the Paris accord and calling on all the Cambodian parties to fully execute the accord, especially the second phase, in full. UNTAC will certainly ensure that those who are complying with the Paris accord and executing Phase Two "will not be adversely disturbed by any parties that may refuse to comply." UNTAC and the UNDP have been planning some concrete programs and activities for demobilized soldiers. I hope that we will be able to rebuild a new peace in Cambodia.

Before concluding, I would like to wish all of you the best of health, longevity, and every success. [end recording]

Over 3,000 Troops Gather To Disarm

BK1406114492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1130 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, June 14 (AFP)—More than 3,000 Cambodian soldiers reached U.N. disarmament sites during the first day of the U.N. peace plan's second phase, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said Sunday.

An UNTAC statement said "3,338 soldiers had reported for cantonment ... according to reports received from 32 of the 82 disarmament sites."

The soldiers represent approximately 1.6 percent of the 200,000 combatants from four factions that must be completely disarmed and 70-percent demobilized before U.N.-organized elections take place in April or May 1993. [passage omitted]

Of the total number of combatants reported disarmed by UNTAC, 3,088 are soldiers of the Phnom Penh government armed forces, 100 Sihanouk loyalists, and 150 troops from the Khmer People's National Liberation Front. [passage omitted]

The UNTAC statement added that the number of soldiers at U.N. disarmament sites "shows a cautious but positive start to phase two." [passage omitted]

UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali on Phase 2

BK1306011292 Hong Kong AFP in English 2354 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Excerpts] United Nations, June 12 (AFP)—Implementing the next phase of Cambodia's U.N. peace plan—sending troops back to their barracks—without the Khmer Rouge "can be only a short-term solution," U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali said Friday. [passage omitted]

Butrus Ghali said in a report reviewed by the Security Council Friday that "it is imperative that all efforts should now be made to persuade" the Khmer Rouge to accept demobilization of its troops.

The report included recommendations made by Yasushi Akashi, the chief of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). [passage omitted]

The faction has explained its decision not to allow UNTAC "blue beret" peacekeepers into areas under Khmer Rouge control by charging that Vietnamese troops still remain on Cambodian soil, despite Vietnam's announcement in 1989 that they had all been withdrawn.

UNTAC has rejected that claim, the secretary general said. He added that Akashi was to consult with the three parties to the accord which have accepted the cantonment of their troops, in order to ensure that the process advances without disadvantaging any of the three vis-a-vis the Khmer Rouge. [passage omitted]

In an effort to convince the Khmer Rouge to join in the peace plan's second phase, Butrus Ghali recommended that the council "consider what action it could take to achieve this objective."

Diplomatic sources at the United Nations said possible actions could include asking the new Thai Government to close its border with Cambodia in an effort to end unofficial Thai military cooperation with the Khmer Rouge in faction strongholds rich in tropical wood and gems. Trade with the Thai military makes these areas virtually autonomous.

China also might be asked to refrain from allowing Khmer Rouge radio to broadcast from Chinese territory, the same sources said.

After reviewing the report, the Security Council urged all sides in the Cambodian conflict to comply strictly with the Paris peace accords.

Speaking for the 15-member council, panel president Paul Noterdaeme of Belgium said members were "deeply concerned" about difficulties U.N. monitors have faced in trying to implement terms of the peace agreements.

Noterdaeme said the second phase of the peace plan would begin as planned on despite the trouble, and he called on Butrus Ghali to speed deployment of the full peacekeeping force in Cambodia.

Free elections in Cambodia are scheduled to be held in April or May 1993, after phase-two of the peace plan is completed.

Noterdaeme referred to the Khmer Rouge's unwillingness to cooperate with U.N. monitors, saying "one party was unable to allow the necessary deployment of (peacekeepers) in areas under its control."

The council "believes that any delay could jeopardize the whole process to which all Cambodian parties have agreed under the auspices of the United Nations and Paris conference," he said. The Security Council also reaffirmed the authority of prince Norodom Sihanouk as the only spokesman for all Cambodia.

Khmer Rouge Not To Attend Tokyo Meeting

OW1306030092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0203 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, June 13 KYODO—The chief of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Cambodia has said the demobilization of four rival factions in the country is impossible right now because the Khmer Rouge has refused to cooperate with the U.N. peace plan.

The second phase of the U.N. peace plan will have to exclude the Khmer Rouge and a large part of its opposing factions, Yasushi Akashi, head of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said in an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE Friday. [passage omitted]

Reliable sources in Phnom Penh have said that Tie Banh, vice chairman of Cambodia's National Assembly and national defense minister, announced Friday morning that 60 percent of the three other factions will move to cantonments and that the factions will not be entirely disarmed.

Akashi said he does not know anything about a 60 percent disarmament goal and said the U.N. mission has not given up its plan to disarm all the factions.

Also Friday, the U.N. Security Council adopted a statement calling on the Khmer Rouge to abide by the Paris accord but the statement did not mention the group by name.

The statement, read by Council President Paul Noterdaeme, said "the Council calls upon all parties to comply strictly with the commitments they have accepted, including cooperation with UNTAC."

In a related move, Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan said neither he nor any other officials of the faction will attend an international conference on the reconstruction of Cambodia in Tokyo on June 20 and 22. Fears are mounting that the rebuilding of the country, now under way, will be delayed.

Diplomats Cited on Role of Thai Army at Border

BK1406065492 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0434 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK June 14—International pressure to persuade Cambodia's Khmer Rouge to comply with U.N. disarmament moves is unlikely to succeed, leaving Thailand as the only country that might convince it to change course, analysts and diplomats were quoted by AFP as saying in Bangkok.

But with the disarmament phase of Cambodia's U.N. brokered peace plan set to start Saturday, time will be needed for a Thai mediation to produce results, and radical moves such as Thailand closing its border with Cambodia—as the United Nations is reportedly considering—are just not on, they say.

"It's a dumb idea put forward by people who think of the Thai-Cambodia border as something like the frontiers of Benelux," said an analyst following reports that U.N. Council members had not ruled out asking the new government in Bangkok to try and end unofficial Thai military support for the Khmer Rouge.

"Blocking the outflow of gems and timber would not work. It cannot be enforced," he said, referring to lucrative business deals of Thai businessmen and military officers in ruby-mining and logging in Cambodia's Khmer Rouge-controlled areas.

During Cambodia's 13-year civil war, the Khmer Rouge were given massive assistance by China and Thailand. The war officially ended with last year (?with) the Paris peace treaty signed by the Khmer Rouge, the other guerrilla factions and Phnom Penh Government.

But the Khmer Rouge during whose rule more than one million people were killed, now refuses to go ahead with phase two of the accord which calls for the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) to supervise the cantonment and disarming of most of the 200,000 estimated troops from all sides.

The main reasons given by the Khmer Rouge for blocking the peace process are an alleged Vietnamese military presence in Cambodia despite Hanoi's September 1989 announcement of a complete pullout, and the fact that the Phnom Penh Government has remained intact and continues to control most of Cambodia.

Under the Paris agreement, UNTAC is to supervise key ministries, including defence, the interior and foreign affairs, to pave the way for free and fair elections next year. Diplomats in Bangkok point out that Khmer Rouge fault finding over upholding the Phnom Penh Government is not entirely unfounded.

Such is not the case, they say, for objections regarding a Vietnamese military presence as there is no sign of Hanoi combat troops left in Cambodia. But, according to some diplomats and Thai officials, the stated Khmer Rouge view of Vietnam is not just a reflection of the group's propaganda.

"It may be obstruction but it is also heartfelt. The Khmer Rouge genuinely fear the Vietnamese, " one said.

"The worst thing to do with the Khmer Rouge is to push them into a corner," a diplomat observed. "In the worst case scenario there would be clashes between the guerrillas and peacekepping forces with UNTAC taking casualties."

"And, like it nor not, you've got to deal with them. Under the Paris agreement they have a political role to play," he said.

Diplomats said China seemed to have very little leverage left with the Khmer Rouge as the faction can now do with outside assistance for some time.

"But what can be done is to address some of the complaints of the Khmer Rouge. Thailand as a neighbouring country and because of the trade links could talk to them," said a diplomat.

"The Thais could, for instance, try to make them a bit less paranoid about Vietnam," the diplomat said.

But he pointed out that those in Thailand who would really hold the key to convincing the Khmer Rouge to compromise were its military leaders.

Because of their close business connection with the group "the Thai military are more able than anybody else to get to the real Khmer Rouge leadership, that is to Pol Pot."

Since the Khmer Rouge defeat by Vietnam in early 1979, Pol Pot has stayed in the background and the faction's nominal leader has been Khieu Samphan.

But the diplomat said it would take time befor Thailand's generals can be able to de something about Cambodia. Thailand's military is in disarray because of the country's political turmoil and the top military leaders have gone into self-imposed seclusion since troops fired on pro-democracy demonstrators in the streets of Bangkok last month.

UN Security Council's Possible Moves Cited

BK1306053692 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0429 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK June 13—The United Nations is considering steps to force the Khmer Rouge to comply with a U.N. peace plan, including asking Thailand to close its border with Cambodia, AFP quoted diplomatic sources as saying Thursday.

Some council members say they do not rule out the possibility of asking the new government in Bangkok to close the border in coming weeks in an effort to end unofficial Thai military support for the Khmer Rouge. Collaboration with the Thai military in some Khmer Rouge strongholds, especially the ruby-rich region of Pailin, makes the areas virtually autonomous, sources say.

The U.N. Security Council has been increasingly concerned about the Khmer Rouge rejection of the cantonment and disarmament of its forces as called for under the U.N. peace plan. The council is expected to react soon, sources said.

The council is scheduled to consider a report next week from Yasushi Akashi, chief of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia, on how well the peace plan is proceeding.

The second phase, which is scheduled to start Saturday, includes the disarmament and confining to barracks of the four fighting factions, which have a total of about 200,000 troops. About 70 percent are to be demobilized.

The three factions cooperating with the second phase are the Phnom Penh Government and the two noncommunist groups allied to the Khmer Rouge, made up of supporters of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former Premier Son Sann.

Akashi said Wednesday in Phnom Penh that the second phase would begin on schedule Saturday, but without the Khmer Rouge.

U.S., Australian and French diplomats have already begun to pressure Thailand to end the collaboration between the Khmer Rouge and the military, which earns a fair amount of money for Thai soldiers.

Beijing has tried to convince its recalcitrant former ally to agree to the demobilization, sources said. But China's influence on the Khmer Rouge seems to have diminished sharply since it stopped giving them arms, sources said.

Sources—Khmer Rouge Playing for Time, Money

BK1506070092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0607 GMT 15 Jun 92

[By Robert Birsel]

[Text] Aranyaprathet, Thailand, June 15 (AFP)—Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction has brought the country's massive United Nations peace plan to the brink of disaster but is unlikely to let the process collapse, Thai and Cambodian sources said here Monday.

The radical guerrilla group has virtually banned the U.N. from the territory it controls and is refusing to give up its weapons under the U.N. plan's second phase.

Khmer Rouge intransigence, which has exasperated the U.N., is part of a well considered long term plan to ensure the group's immediate future and in the end bring it back to power, the sources said.

"The Khmer Rouge are bargaining for their political survival," one Cambodian political source said.

The radical faction whose brutal rule in the 1970s caused the deaths of one million Cambodians, is currently heavily involved in other types of bargains as well.

Timber and gems are flowing out of the Khmer Rouge-controlled Pailin district into Thailand where deals, brokered and controlled by the Thai military, are earning the faction millions of dollars a month.

But analysts said current Khmer Rouge stalling was more than just a ploy to protect booming business. "The economic factor behind the Khmer Rouge digging in their heels is important but it is not the only factor. There are political reasons too," said a Thai official monitoring developments in Cambodia.

U.N.-supervised elections are scheduled in Cambodia for mid-1993 and analysts say that the Khmer Rouge is looking not to win the poll but to register some degree of support.

"Only if we have persons belonging to us in parliament will we be able to protect the popular interest. Otherwise it will be impossible," Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot told a meeting of the party faithful in 1988, according to a document smuggled out of the Khmer Rouge zone.

"Pol Pot believes seats in parliament and a role in a post-election government are essential in protecting and preserving the movement," David Ashley, a British scholar researching the group, wrote in a report late last year.

Sources on the border say the Khmer Rouge will eventually abide by the U.N. plan but the faction will hold out for all the concessions it can in what it sees as a hostile political environment.

"They'll delay as much as possible and use the time to continue their political work in the countryside," one non-communist Cambodian guerrilla officer said.

Cambodia's two non-communist guerrilla factions were nervous allies of the Khmer Rouge during the 13-year war against the Phnom Penh government and its Vietnamese backers.

"They want the Phnom Penh government dismantled before elections. That will never happen. But by playing tough they will get their way on some points," another Cambodian guerrilla source added.

The Khmer Rouge gives as its main reason for refusing to cooperate with the disarmament plan the alleged continued presence of Vietnamese troops in the country in violation of the Paris peace agreement which formally ended the war last October.

But one well-informed Cambodian source said there was more to it than that.

"The Khmer Rouge are convinced that the U.N. has taken a stand in favour of the Phnom Penh government," the source said. "They will refuse to cooperate and slowly win changes which they see as essential for their political survival."

"Disarming their troops is not significant to them. In the end they will do it and everyone will see it a major concession," the source said. "But they have disarmed their best units and sent them back to village life already. With secret weapon supplies of course," he added.

In the meantime the money keeps flowing into the Khmer Rouge war chest.

Timber dumps with row upon row of freshly-cut hardwood trunks have sprung up in areas which just months ago were mine-infested no- go zones along the border with Thailand.

Thousands of Thai miners trudge across the border every day to dig for the blood red Pailin rubies.

Timber and gem exports earn the Khmer Rouge an estimated 100 million dollars a year, and gives the faction the economic wealth which it regards as essential for its political survival and ultimate success in returning to power.

"Come election time one thing is for sure—the Khmer Rouge will be spending lots of money," a Cambodian political official said.

Pol Pot Reportedly Leading Troops in Preah Vihear

BK1306081892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Summary from poor reception] Kulen and Sangkum Thmei District seats are still under H-107 rocket attacks by the Khmer Rouge side, according to sources in Preah Vihear Province. The sources also say that "Pol Pot, whose hands are stained with the blood of over 3 million Cambodians, has reappeared as a so-called field commander. There are reports that Pol Pot used Code 79 as a pseudonym in his activities." He is carrying out activities in an effort to put pressure on and seize Kulen and Sangkum Thmei District seats. The reports also say that over 6,000 people, who have fled the disaster caused by the Khmer Rouge, dare not return home yet.

For over two weeks, Kulen and Sangkum Thmei District seats came under fierce attacks by troops of Democratic Kampuchea. Scores of people have been killed or wounded, houses destroyed, and a lot of property and cattle lost. Hundreds of families have been forced to abandon their houses to live in hardship in desolate areas.

The same sources also say that all 32 staff of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, who retreated temporarily to Preah Vihear provincial seat, have now returned to Kulen District seat. They share, however, the same trench with the Cambodian People's Army troops during Khmer Rouge shelling of positions in Kulen District seat.

Khmer Rouge Attacks, Counteroffensive Launched

Violations in 2 Provinces

BK1206141892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] The Khmer Rouge, under the cover of heavy artillery fire, launched an infantry attack against the position of the People's Armed Forces of the State of Cambodia [SOC] faction in Ta Siem Village, Svay Leu District, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province on 3 June according to the Commission for the Coordination of Military Affairs with the United Nations. The source said that this violation resulted in five killed and three injured among our troops. We were forced to temporarily evacuate this position in Ta Siem Village. On 7 June, however, our Cambodian People's Armed Forces exercised their right to self-defense and recaptured their position. As we succeeded in firmly defending our position, the Khmer Rouge from Division 980 continued to fire artillery shells on Ta Siem Village, killing a member of the provincial forces along with two civilians and wounding four other civilians.

The same source revealed that in Samraong District of the same province of Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, the Khmer Rouge massed at Krasang Thmei Village about 1,000 of their men equipped with all calibers of artillery pieces in preparation for an attack against the positions of the 286th Division of the SOC faction.

The source went on to reveal that in Preah Vihear Province, the Khmer Rouge have so far continued to fire many H-107 shells on the administrative seats of Kulen and Sangkum Thmei Districts, scaring the thousands of war refugees from returning to their homes.

Fighting Erupts in Battambang

BK1306130492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Khmer Rouge forces have continued to commit violations of the peace accord by shelling positions of the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] and plundering the people's property, according to the Commission for the Coordination of Military Affairs with the United Nations. As a matter of fact, at 1325 on 6 June, 30 elements from the 450th polpotist division robbed the people in Bang Veng Commune, Mongkolborei District, Battambang Province of 100 oxen. On the same day, a group of Khmer Rouge from Division 36 fired 22 shells with DK-82 guns on Chrey Run Village, Moung District, Battambang Province. A soldier was wounded.

At 1939 on 10 June in Preah Vihear, the Khmer Rouge forces fired 200 shells with H-107 guns on the positions of the 16th CPAF regiment at Phnum Dek in Rovieng District while other Khmer Rouge ground troops entered Thvai Damnak Village in an attempt to attack the command post of the 16th regiment.

Khmer Rouge Materiel Seized

BK1306062292 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 13 Jun 92

["Report on Khmer Rouge violation in Preah Vihear Province"]

[Text] On 10 June 1992 at 1830 [1130 GMT], Khmer Rouge troops numbering beteween 100 and 150 soldiers launched an attack in the Srayang and Koh Ke area in Preah Vihear Province.

Intent on ensuring security for the people and defending our position, we managed to force the Khmer Rouge troops to retreat, leaving behind the following war materiel:

—One large vehicle,
—One 122D-30 artillery piece and 32 shells,
—Two B-40.5 rocket launcher,
—One B-40 rocket launcher,
—Four folding AK rifles,
—One M-18A1 rifle,
—Four K-54 pistols,
—Fifty B-62 hand rockets,
—Fifty B-40.5 rockets,
—Thirty B-40 rockets,
—One artillery guidance equipment,
—One compass,
—Fifteen canteens,
—Three maps, and
—Tens of thousands of baht [Thai currency].

Northern Counteroffensive Begins

BK1506135992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1328 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, June 15 (AFP)—Phnom Penh government troops have begun a counteroffensive against the Khmer Rouge in northern Cambodia, Western diplomats said here Monday.

The fighting began Sunday with artillery fire.

The government troops were trying to take back positions that the Khmer Rouge have occupied in an offensive over the past few weeks.

The Phnom Penh Army bombarded positions approximately 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Kompong Thom that were occupied by the Khmer Rouge during recent offensives.

"It is the most violent act of war in many months," said a diplomat who has been following military movements since the artillery attacks began.

Communique From 10 Jun SNC Meeting Issued

BK1206123592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Communique of the meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council held in Phnom Penh on 10 June—read by announcer]

[Text] The Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] met at the Khemarin Palace at 0900 on 10 June 1992 under the high chairmanship of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC, with the participation of Mr. Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary-general for Cambodia.

Also present were the representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] and of Indonesia, cochairman of the Paris conference on Cambodia, as well as a number of observers.

1. State of readiness of parties for phase two of the cease-fire:

Statements were made by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Mr. Akashi, Mr. Khieu Samphan, Mr. Ieng Muli, and the representatives of the UNSC permanent members and the cochairman of the Paris conference on Cambodia.

Mr. Akashi called on the one party, which had refused the deployment of the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces in the zones under its control, to meet in full its obligations under the Paris accord, to comply with the 12 points listed at the SNC meeting of 26 May, and to enter phase two.

Mr. Khieu Samphan said that the military and political aspects of the foreign presence are closely linked and could not be dissociated. Measures taken on the military aspect are necessary, but must be completed by the implementation of other key provisions to make the SNC work as the unique legitimate body and source of authority in Cambodia during the transitional period.

Mr. Akashi stated that the position of UNTAC on these issues had been already explained in detail at the SNC meeting of 5 May.

Mr. Akashi stated that phase two would commence as planned and announced the cooperation of the other three Cambodian factions. At the same time, Mr. Akashi made it clear that UNTAC would do nothing to destroy the military balance within Cambodia.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk expressed strong and continued support for UNTAC and urged all factions to vigorously implement the Paris accord.

2. Electoral law:

Statements were made by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Mr. Akashi, HRH Prince Norodom Ranariddh, Mr. Hor Namhong, Mr. Ieng Muli, Mr. Khieu Samphan, and Mr. Austin.

Mr. Akashi made proposals on 1) the use of the image of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk as the symbols of political parties; 2) the preparations for the voting by overseas Cambodians; and 3) criteria for the registration of voters.

The four Cambodian factions were of the unanimous view that only Cambodians have the right to take part in the electoral process.

It was decided that appropriate amendments to the draft electoral law would be drafted in accordance with the above proposals and will be discussed in the Technical Consultative Committee.

3. Rehabilitation:

Statements were made by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Mr. Akashi, and Mr. Khieu Samphan.

Mr. Akashi showed the procedure for the clearance of rehabilitation projects.

Mr. Khieu Samphan stated that the aid and assistance truly intended for real rehabilitation could be delivered and utilized immediately under appropriate forms and joint control by UNTAC and the SNC. As for the aid intended for the budget and balance of payments of Cambodia, they will be considered soon after the SNC acquires necessary means and power to fulfill its mandate as the unique legitimate body and source of authority in Cambodia.

Mr. Khieu Samphan stated also that the provisions of the Paris accord do not permit any party to make any decision that does not concur with the accord, and the final decision must take into account the view expressed in the SNC.

Mr. Akashi stated that in the proposed procedure, interests, and concerns of the parties would be sufficiently safeguarded, and reassured that UNTAC would not side with any parties in the implementation of the rehabilitation.

The proposed procedure was adopted while reservation was made by one party.

4. Other business:

Mr. Akashi submitted to the SNC the statute of the Governing Council of the Cambodian Mine Action Center, and stated that it would be adopted if no objection was made in the near future. Mr. Akashi also indicated that UNTAC would distribute reports on disturbances at the Site Two camp and copies of the contents, preface, and his own view on the economic assessment of the rehabilitation needs prepared by the team headed by the UNTAC economic adviser.

The next meeting of the SNC will take place in Phnom Penh at 0900 on 6 July.

Official—Refugee Repatriation Behind Schedule

BK1206125092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, June 12 (AFP)—Hundreds of thousands of Cambodian refugees in Thailand will not be repatriated on schedule by 1992 as called for in the peace plan, said a UN official Friday.

"It is clear we will not be going to move the entire refugee population back to Cambodia by the end of the year," Ian Guest, a UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official told a press conference.

Guest said the repatriation plan was running behind and that only 27,210 Cambodian refugees had returned home since the beginning of the operation in March.

It is estimated about 370,000 refugees were living in Thailand camps in March.

The slowing of the repatriation plan is largely due to a desperate shortage of cultivable lands in Cambodia that can be given to the refugees upon their return because of millions of landmines planted by warring factions.

Guest said the UNHCR hoped to repatriate 20,000 t0 25,000 refugees this month.

The repatriation program was organized to permit Cambodian refugees to participate in elections that must take place by May 1993, according to the UN-brokered peace plan aimed at ending the conflict in their country.

Indonesia

Ruling Party Gains 67.96 Percent of Votes

BK1306094092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Home Affairs Minister Rudini, in his capacity as chairman of the Indonesian Election Committe, has announced the partial vote tally of organizations running in the general election. The United Development Party [PPP] obtained 16,590,838 votes, the Functional Group [Golkar, the ruling party] 66,075,977 votes, and the Indonesian Democratic Party [PDI] 14,565,175 votes. Speaking to newsmen in Jakarta this afternoon, Minister Rudini said 25 of the 27 provincial election committees had delivered the complete vote count results in their polling stations to the Indonesian Election Committee. [passage omitted]

According to Minister Rudini, the PPP, Golkar, and the PDI have respectively obtained 17.06 percent, 67.96 percent, 14.98 percent of the total votes counted so far. Based on reports by election committees, balloting and vote counting in polling stations at home and abroad proceeded in an orderly, safe, and smooth manner.

15 Jun Vote Count Released

BK1506072692 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] As of 2353 West Indonesian Time [1653 GMT] last night, the nationwide vote count carried out by the Election Commission stood at 97,277,840, representing 90.4 percent of the total votes. Of these votes, the United Development Party obtained 16,595,648, the Functional Group 66,116,259, and the Indonesian Democratic Party 14,695,933. [figures as heard].

51 Killed During Recent Election Campaigning

BK1306124892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] As many as 51 persons were killed, 66 seriously injured, and 192 slightly injured during the 1992 general election campaigning that ended on 3 June. Details of casualties and property damage were disclosed by Police Brigadier General Pulung Suhartono, director of Samapta [expansion unknown] of the Republic of Indonesia Police. He was speaking before newsmen at the General Headquarters of the Republic of Indonesia Police in Jakarta this afternoon.

He said that there were no reports of acts of sabotage against campaign activities conducted by organizations running in the general election, while there were 461 acts of sabotage during the 1987 campaign. He also said that the number of violations during the 1992 general election campaign was less than that in 1987. The number of unauthorized campaign activities decreased by 86 percent. The number of campaign activities that deviated from the authorization permits and offenses committed by campaigning leaders decreased by about 96.9 percent and 15.5 percent respectively.

Election campaign violations in 1992, as of 3 June 1992, were as follows: There were 12 unauthorized campaigning activities, 13 campaigning activities that deviated from authorization permits, 25 offenses committed by campaigning leaders, 101 acts of destruction of party symbols, 68 acts of destruction of campaign equipment, six cases of assault against officers on duty, 10 cases involving the use of firearms and sharp objects, 307 criminal cases and public disturbances, and 128 other offenses.

Li Peng, Others Congratulate Suharto on Victory

BK1506031092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] PRC Prime Minister Li Peng has congratulated President Suharto on the outcome of the 1992 Indonesian general elections. Li Peng extended his congratulations when he met the Indonesian president at the Earth Summit meeting in Rio de Janeiro. President Suharto also received similar congratulations from the Pakistani president and the Swedish prime minister when the two leaders met him at the Earth Summit meeting.

Laos

Thai Crown Prince Arrives for 13-19 Jun Visit

Visit Hailed, 'Bad Elements' Warned

BK1406084192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Feature in "Situation Program": "No Problem That We Cannot Solve Together"]

[Text] Respected listeners, beloved friends and comrades: Today the Lao Army and people are very pleased to have an opportunity to welcome an official visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon, on behalf of His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of the Kingdom of Thailand, at the invitation of His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the LPDR. In our army radio's situation program today, we therefore would like to present a feature on Lao-Thai relations. The feature, entitled: No Problem That We Cannot Solve Together, reads in full as follows:

Laos and Thailand have maintained fraternal, neighborly relations since ancient times. Peoples of the two countries have practiced similar customs, culture, languages, and religions. No relations between other countries in the world can be compared to the relations between Laos and Thailand. The sentiment toward Lao-Thai relations is, therefore, a sentiment of relations between peoples of the same blood. It's a sentiment of fraternity. The two fraternal peoples have for a long time regarded the Mekong River as the lifeline to link and fasten their relations together.

In recent years, the friendly relations between Laos and Thailand have been increasingly developed. All problems that could bring adverse consequences to the two peoples and countries have been jointly settled step by step through peaceful means and in a spirit of sincerity. Leaders of the governments and armies of the two countries have regularly exchanged visits and views on the basis of mutual understanding. His Excellency Anan Panyarachun, former prime minister of Thailand, has said: The two countries of Thailand and Laos have not only taken steps to strengthen friendly relations, but have also worked together to contribute to building Southeast Asia into a region of prosperity and durable peace.

Now it is time for various countries in this region to turn their backs on the past and look forward to jointly set forth objectives and build the future. His Excellency Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon of the LPDR, during his visit to Thailand early this year, also said: The LPDR Government has pursued a consistent policy to establish relations with all countries in the world, particularly neighboring countries, and to broaden economic and cultural cooperation with a view to building and developing a prosperous country and gradually improving the people's living conditions. Based on this spirit, it is believed that there will be no problem that the two countries—Laos and Thailand—cannot solve together.

Looking back on the recent past, it is evident that the fraternal relations between Laos and Thailand have been further developed in many aspects. The foundation stone-laying ceremony jointly held by the prime ministers of the two countries to mark the beginning of construction of the friendship bridge across the Mekong River on 24 November 1991 is considered a significant event, and the first event of its kind in the history of relations between the two countries. In addition, the Thai Government has rendered aid to the Lao people, who have suffered from floods and other natural disasters. This has also reflected the development of Lao-Thai relations recently.

It is noteworthy that recently the armies of the two countries have cooperated closely in settling various problems that have arisen and affected Lao-Thai relations, particularly the daily life of the peoples residing in certain areas along the border, who could not earn their livelihoods in peace and were sometimes suspicious of each other due to criminal activities and illegal acts violating the laws of both countries and carried out by a number of ill-intentioned elements. All these problems have been jointly discussed and initially settled by the Lao-Thai and Thai-Lao General Border Peacekeeping Cooperation Committees.

Regarding this, Lieutenant General Choummali Saignason, defense minister of the LPDR and chairman of the Lao-Thai General Border Peacekeeping Cooperation Committee, said in a ceremony to welcome high-ranking military officers of the Kingdom of Thailand led by Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, Armed Forces supreme commander, air force commander, and chairman of the Thai-Lao General Border Peacekeeping Cooperation Committee: We deem it necessary to solve the problems, because our two armies have been assigned by their governments to maintain peace and order along the common border. Following regular meetings and exchanges of visits between the two sides at all levels, ranging from the central down to the local levels, mutual understanding has been achieved and accommodations have been provided for each other to carry out activities. As a result of the efforts of both sides, many problems involving maintaining tranquility have been satisfactorily settled.

The increasing development of the relations of fraternal friendship has resulted from the joint efforts of the two governments and two peoples of Laos and Thailand. It has also resulted from the similarities of the historic and geographical conditions and customs in the cultural field that have all along linked the Lao and Thai peoples. The harmonious development of today's Lao-Thai relations is a warning to a group of bad elements wanting to disrupt the friendly relations that their acts no longer conform to the trend of the times.

Prince Welcomed at Airport

BK1306094192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Correspondent report on arrival of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon of Thailand in Vientiane on 13 Jun—recorded]

[Excerpts] Respected listeners, in response to the invitation of His Excellency [H.E.] Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], His Royal Highness [HRH] Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon, representing Their Majesties King Phumiphon Adunyadet and Queen Sirikit of the Kingdom of Thailand, arrived in the capital city of Vientiane this morning on a special personal aircraft for an official friendship visit from today to 19 June 1992.

At the Wattai International Airport in Vientiane, an official welcome ceremony was held to honor the visiting Thai crown prince. He was received by LPDR President H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan and a number of dignitaries.

At 1005, the special personal plane landed at the Vientiane's international airport.

The prince was then welcomed by H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the LPDR; H.E. Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Supreme People's Assembly; H.E. Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister; H.E. Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; H.E. Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-ngason, minister of national defense; H.E. Oudom Khatthi-nga, lord mayor of Vientiane Municipality; H.E. Somsavat Lengsavat, minister attached to the Council of Ministers' Office; H.E. Thongloun Sisoulit, deputy minister of foreign affairs; and H.E. Bounkeut Sangsomsak, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of LPDR to the Kingdom of Thailand. [passage omitted]

The historic visit to our country by HRH the crown prince of the Kingdom of Thailand will further strengthen the friendship and cooperation of the two brotherly neighboring countries, Laos and Thailand.

13 June Activities Reported

BK1306134192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] After the welcoming ceremony, His Royal Highness [HRH] Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon, accompanied by His Excellency [H.E.] President Kaysone Phomvihan, left the Wattai International Airport in a motorcade for his residence at the government guest house in Vientiane.

In the afternoon, HRH Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon laid a wreath at the monument of unknown combatants in Vientiane. Later, at 1600 hours, H.E. President Kaysone Phomvihan received his royal highness at the Presidential Office. At the meeting, which proceeded in an atmosphere of deep friendship, the guest and the host talked about the time-honored, traditionally fine relations between the Lao and Thai peoples, the fraternal and neighborly relations which have now been improved, promoted, and expanded to a considerably good level. This is seen from the expansion of the relations at many levels and in many different fields. This improvement and development have been systematically beneficial to each side in each period.

On this occasion, H.E. President Kaysone Phomvihan deeply thanked his royal highness for his goodwill visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] on behalf of His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of the Kingdom of Thailand. His Excellency the LPDR president also availed himself of the occasion to convey his respect and best regards to their majesties, the king and the queen. Their talk proceeded in an atmosphere of close, long-standing friendship and fraternity.

At 1730, H.E. Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the LPDR, also paid a courtesy call on his royal highness the crown prince at the government guest house.

Later, at 1915, H.E. LPDR President Kaysone Phomvihan held a banquet at the National Assembly hall in Vientiane in honor of HRH Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon. Many dignitaries of the LPDR government and various organizations, both military and civilian branches, attended.

13 Jun Banquet Speeches Noted

BK1406084592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Yesterday evening at the National Assembly Hall in the capital, Vientiane, His Excellency [H.E.] Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], hosted a banquet in honor of His Royal Highness [HRH] Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Participating in the function were H.E. Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Supreme People's Assembly; H.E. Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister; H.E. Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; ministers and deputy ministers; members of the Supreme People's Assembly; and a number of other dignitaries. H.E. Bounkeut Sangsomsak, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the LPDR to the Kingdom of Thailand, and H.E. Nikhom Tantemsap, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the LPDR, also attended the banquet.

On the auspicious occasion, H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan delivered a speech on behalf of the government and people of the whole country of Laos. In the speech he expressed great delight at the visit to the LPDR by HRH the crown prince on behalf of His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of the Kingdom of Thailand.

[Begin Kaysone recording] Esteemed Royal Highness, Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Thailand. I, as well as the government and people of the whole nation of Laos, am greatly delighted and honored to have an opportunity to welcome Your Royal Highness, on behalf of his majesty the king and members of the royal family of the Kingdom of Thailand, to our country Laos. Although this is Your Royal Highness' first visit to Laos, I consider it a very significant occasion in the history of Lao-Thai relations. I believe your visit will further strengthen the fraternal friendship that has existed since ancient times between the Lao and Thai peoples. At the same time, it will also serve as an important step in increasing our understanding, trust, and sincerity toward each other, which will help improve the relations and cooperation in various fields between the two countries in a manner responding to the desires and interests of both sides.

I hope that throughout your visit, Royal Highness, you will have a chance to see and know more about the country and people of Laos, who are in many ways similar to the Thai people, such as in tradition, culture, and language. The peoples of the two countries—Laos and Thailand—have the same racial origin. They have been psychologically linked with each other, lived together, and rendered assistance to each other for quite a long time. Despite the difference in their experiences through various historical periods, their connection and affection toward each other and the peoples of the two countries have continued and flourished steadily until now. I believe, with a deep sense of fraternity between our two countries, Laos and Thailand, that there will even be greater efforts than before to promote the relations of friendship and cooperation with each other on the principle of peaceful coexistence so the two peoples can live peacefully and assist each other in developing and bringing progress and prosperity to their own countries.

Esteemed Royal Highness and Crown Prince, I and my wife remember well the kindness and hospitality their majesties the king and queen showed us during our official visit to the Kingdom of Thailand. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to once again extend my respect and thanks to their majesties. I wish their majesties, as well as members of the royal family, happiness and longevity, thus contributing to the peace and progress of the Thai people and Lao-Thai friendship and cooperation.

I wish the visit by Your Royal Highness the Crown Prince great success in all aspects. I invite all of us here to toast the happiness and longevity of their majesties the king and queen and all members of the royal family of the Kingdom of Thailand; the happiness and successful visit to Laos of HRH the crown prince; and the everlasting friendship and cooperation between Laos and Thailand. I invite all of you now to make this toast. [end recording]

After that, HRH Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon made remarks in reply to H.E. Kaysone Phomvihan's speech.

[Begin crown prince recording in Thai] I am very pleased to have had an opportunity to visit the LPDR. I have, for a long time, wished to see and visit the country that is the closest friend of Thailand. I would like to convey my thanks to his excellency [Kaysone Phomvihan], the LPDR Government, and all the persons concerned for giving me an exceptional welcome and organizing the banquet in my honor this evening.

I am admiringly impressed with his excellency's remarks on the close and intimate relations between our countries. If we look back to the remote past of our countries, we will see that Laos and Thailand have enjoyed good relations with each other since ancient times. Be it at the state-to-state level or people-to-people level, their relations have been so close that they will always be inseparable. All this is because our countries are close to each other, the two peoples believe in the same religion, Buddhism, and they have similar folklore, cultures, and traditions. The two peoples are like close relatives and intimate friends. The time-honored continuity of relations has constituted a solid base contributing to coordination in various fields. For example, it has helped joint projects between the Kingdom of Thailand and the LPDR to proceed satisfactorily and be assured of firm progress in the future.

Our consistently continued relations have developed to a very satisfactory level. His Excellency and Madame Thongvin Phomvihan paid a visit to the Kingdom of Thailand last January, while Prime Minister General Khamtai Siphandon paid a visit to the country in February during which he reached an agreement with his Thai counterpart on Thai-Lao friendship and cooperation.

Furthermore, I also believe that the improving atmosphere in this region will be conducive to the further strengthening of friendship and good understanding between our countries and peoples. On this occasion, I invite all the honorable guests to toast H.E. the president of the LPDR's good health and successes in all his activities. I express the wish that the friendship between our countries and peoples will grow steadily and last forever. [end recording]

After that, the crown prince watched a performance of a Lao art and dance troupe organized by the Ministry of Information and Culture. The art performance included the singing of both Lao and Thai songs, a goodwill dance, and a Lao-Thai friendship dance. These reflected splendid Lao arts and traditions, as well as the fraternal and neighborly relations between the peoples of Laos and Thailand, which are steadily being further improved. [passage omitted]

Visits Mekong Friendship Bridge 14 Jun

BK1406095192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Excerpt] After completing activities on the first day of his official visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], His Royal Highness [HRH] Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon of the Kingdom of Thailand this morning traveled from his residence on an automobile to the construction site of the Tha Naleng-Nong Khai bridge across the Mekong River, which is the first bridge ever built to link the LPDR and the Kingdom of Thailand.

Accompanying the Crown Prince to visit the bridge construction site were His Excellency [H.E.] Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister for foreign affairs, and a team of officials.

Bounkeut Sangsomsak, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the LPDR to the Kingdom of Thailand, and Nikhom Tantemsap, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to Laos, also joined the accompanying team.

At 0920 hours HRH the Crown Prince arrived at the construction site of the bridge across the Mekong River. The prince was received in a friendly atmosphere by H.E. Seun Phetsanghan, deputy minister of communications, transport, post, and construction, who is concurrently head of the bridge construction technical committee and representative of the Lao Government in the tripartite committee for construction of the bridge, and the engineers and technicians of the project.

On this occasion, H.E. Seun Phetsanghan reported to the Crown Prince on the background, objectives, and progress of construction of the bridge across the Mekong River. [passage omitted]

Visits Hydropower Plant

BK1406135592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] This morning, after visiting the construction site of the Tha Naleng-Nong Khai friendship bridge across the Mekong River, His Royal Highness [HRH] Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon of the Kingdom of Thailand, accompanied by His Excellency [H.E.] Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, left the capital, Vientiane, on a royal helicopter for a visit to the Nam Ngeum hydropower dam at Thalat area, Vientiane Province. HRH the Thai crown prince arrived at the dam at 1145. He was accorded an honorable welcome by cadres and workers of the Nam Ngeum hydropower plant.

On this occasion, H.E. Soulivong Phasitthidet, minister of industry and handicrafts, briefed HRH the crown prince on the construction and operation of the hydropower plant. He said: The construction on the first phase of the Nam Ngeum hydropower plant was completed in 1971. At the time it was capable of producing only 30 megawatts of electricity per day. Later, in 1978, the second phase of construction was completed. It was then capable of producing some 80 additional megawatts of electricity. The third phase of construction was completed in 1984 when it was capable of producing some 40 additional megawatts of electricity. This means that it now has the capability of producing a total of 150 megawatts or 150,000 kilowatts, or an average of 840 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year. Three-fourths of the total electric power produced from this plant is sold to the Electrical Generating Authority of Thailand. This has thus contributed to promoting the economic relations between Laos and Thailand.

Afterwards, HRH the crown prince proceeded to view the power control and engineering rooms. He also presented gifts as a souvenir to the Nam Ngeum hydropower plant on this occasion.

Later, HRH Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon went to the front part of the dam where a lunch was given in his honor by Siphon Phalikhan, governor of Vientiane Province. HRH the crown prince took the occasion to present gifts as a souvenir to Vientiane Province. After lunch, HRH the crown prince released a total of 100,000 fishes of nine different types into the Nam Ngeum reservoir. He later took a royal boat to view the scenery (?in the front part) of the reservoir. At around 1500, HRH the crown prince left the dam and returned to Vientine by a royal helicopter.

This evening, beginning at 1900 hours, H.E. Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], will organize a banquet in honor of HRH the crown prince at the government guest hall.

Speaks at Dinner With Khamtai 14 Jun

BK1506023392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In the evening [of 14 June], His Excellency [H.E.] Khamtai Siphandon hosted a dinner banquet in honor of HRH the Crown Prince at the Government Guest Hall. In his speech at the banquet, the prime minister highly esteemed the visit to Laos by HRH the Crown Prince, saying that it constituted a continuation of the strengthening of the high-level relations between our two countries, groundwork of which had already been laid down by His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet, the Great, and H.E. President Kaysone Phomvihan; and that it was an important contribution to the development and strengthening of the neighborly and brotherly relations between the Lao and Thai peoples.

In his reply to H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon's speech at the banquet, HRH the Crown Prince stressed that, in his visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, he had brought with him the best wishes and blessings from Their Majesties the King and the Queen, as well as from the Thai people, to the brotherly Lao people. He pointed out that the relations of friendship between our two countries had existed since ancient times. His visit would serve to further strengthen the relations of friendship and further promote the good understanding and good will between Laos and Thailand.

As for today, which is the third day of his friendship visit to Laos, HRH the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Thailand will leave by a special plane arranged by the Lao Government for Luang Prabang. He will stay there until Friday, 17 June, before returning to the capital, Vientiane.

Leaves for Luang Prabang 15 Jun

BK1506053492 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] This morning, His Royal Highness [HRH] Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon of the Kingdom of Thailand leaves Vientiane capital by a special plane for Luang Prabang Province to visit ancient ruins and production establishments carried out by people in the province. HRH the crown prince will subsequently proceed to visit Viangsai in Houa Phan Province and Phonsavan in Xieng Khouang Province. He will stay in Luang Prabang for three days.

Accompanying HRH Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon were His Excellency Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, and members of the special reception committee appointed to welcome the crown prince in particular.

Additional Border Demarcation Signed With PRC

BK1306101792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] An additional document on Lao-Chinese border demarcation was officially signed at the reception hall in Vientiane on the evening of 10 June.

Representing the Lao side was Chaleun Valinthalasak, acting head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department No. 1 and chairman of the Lao-Chinese Joint Border Committee. The Chinese side was represented by Xu Wenyu, chairman of the Chinese-Lao Joint Border Committee. The document was signed before Soulivong Pasitthidet, deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Also present were Huang Guocai, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRC to Laos, and technical officials of the joint border comittees from both sides.

The signing followed a conclusion recently reached at the third meeting of the joint border committees, adding to the previously-signed border demarcation line accord. During its working visit, the Lao-Chinese joint border committee also visited old cultural sites in Luang Prabang Province and other places.

The Chinese-Lao joint border committee left for China at about noon on 11 June.

Philippines

Ramos Continues To Lead in Vote Count 15 Jun

HK1506095192 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos continues to lead in the latest Congress joint-committee tabulation. Seventy-four of the 94 certificates of canvass have been counted.

Ramos has 4,729,797 votes, followed by Miriam Defensor Santiago with 4,133,194 votes.

In the vice presidential race, Senator Joseph Estrada continues to lead with 5,990,000, followed by Marcelo Fernan with 3,847,692.

Imelda Marcos Declares Support for Ramos

HK1506080892 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 14 Jun 92 pp 1, 8

[Text] Former first lady Imelda Marcos, in a surprise announcement yesterday, threw her support behind Fidel V. Ramos as the country's next president.

"It is apparent that Ramos will be proclaimed as president of the Republic of the Philippines. I am happy with Ramos' efforts in his pursuit for national unity," said Mrs. Marcos, one of seven candidates in the May 11 presidential election.

"The Marcos family is willing to help in every possible way the new leadership as it faces the difficult task of nation-building," she added.

Ramos reacted, saying Mrs. Marcos issued the statement of support "with no request or demand for compromises."

"I make my reaction also without any thought to making any deal," Ramos declared.

Mrs. Marcos urged her supporters to back reconciliation following the recent national and local elections.

"I urge all factions, including the Marcos loyalists, to pursue the true spirit of reconciliation of the heart and join me in our commitment to our crusade: one nation, one mind," the 62-year-old widow of ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos told a news conference.

Ramos, who implemented Marcos' martial rule from 1972-81, helped oust the strongman in 1986 by joining the "people power" revolt which swept Corazon Aquino to the presidency and forced the late dictator and his wife into exile.

Congress is expected to announce the winner of the polls in the coming week but unofficial tallies show the 64-year-old Ramos is winning with 23.5 percent of the vote.

Mrs. Marcos, who placed fifth in the seven-cornered presidential race, said it was important to put allegations of election cheating aside.

"We are now on the brink of chaos," she declared.

"Time is of the essence. If we do not have a president within the time prescribed by law, this will be disastrous for our country and our people," Mrs. Marcos said.

She refused to answer questions about why she had swung her support behind Ramos, the chosen successor of her archrival, President Aquino.

Ms. Aquino is due to step down on June 30, and politicians have warned of a constitutional crisis if Congress does not proclaim the winner of the election by then.

Ramos has expressed support for allowing the burial of the late President Marcos in the country. The late dictator died in exile in 1989.

Ms. Aquino has blocked the return of the Marcos corpse, which is kept in a refrigerated crypt in Hawaii, saying his burial ahead of the election could trigger political unrest.

Ramos Denies Intention To Replace Military Chief

HK1306065092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Former Defense Secretary Ramos, who is also the presidential frontrunner, has denied reports that he will remove General Lisandro Abadia if he is proclaimed the country's new president. Ramos said this is only propaganda aimed at destroying his good relations with the military. He added he will ignore this kind of report because he believes in Abadia's credibility.

Ramos Dismisses Reports of Foreign Assassins

HK1306062492 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0606 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Presidential front runner Fidel Ramos has shrugged off reports that three foreigners have been hired to kill him. Ramos said he is brushing aside the intelligence report which said that three Israeli bomb experts have been paid 5 million Philippine pesos by a losing presidential candidate to liquidate him.

The report said the Israelis would tie bombs around their bodies and detonate these the moment they get close to Ramos. The report added that 16 generals are involved in the plot to kill Ramos.

Ramos said, however, he had not stepped up his security and added that his wife is his only constant security.

Thailand

Anan Submits List of Cabinet Ministers

King Issues Royal Command

BK1406060092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0533 GMT 14 June 92

[Text] Announcement on the appointment of cabinet ministers: Royal signature: Phumiphon Adunyadet, Rex

His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet has graciously instructed that it be announced that in connection with his appointment of Anan Panyarachyun as prime minister, with respect to the announcement dated 10 June 1992, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun has selected individuals suitable for cabinet minister posts to administer the country. His majesty the king has thus appointed the following cabinet ministers in accordance with Article 159 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand:

Police General Phao Sarasin as deputy prime minister;
Kasem Suwannakun as deputy prime minister;
M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi as deputy prime minister;
Michai Wirawaithaya as minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office;
Saisuri Chutikun as minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office;
General Banchop Bunnak as defense minister;
Phanat Simasathian as finance minister;
Asa Sarasin as foreign minister;
Khosit Panpiamrat as agriculture and cooperatives minister;
Amphon Senanarong as deputy agriculture and cooperatives minister;
Nukun Prachuapmo as communications minister;
M.L. Choengchan Kamphu as deputy communications minister;
Amaret Sila-on as commerce minister;
M.R. Pridiyathon Thewakun as deputy commerce minister;
Police General Phao Sarasin as interior minister;
Charoenchit Na Songkhla as deputy interior minister;
Anek Sitthiprasat as deputy interior minister;
Wichian Watthanakhun as justice minister
Phaichit Uathawikun as science, technology, and environment minister;
Kop Krittayakirana as deputy science, technology, and environment minister;
Ko Sawatphanit as education minister
Somchai Wutthipricha as deputy education minister;
Phairot Ningsanon as Public Health Minister;
Sippanon Ketuthat as industry minister;
Wira Susangkonkan as deputy industry minister;
Kasem Suwannakun as minister to State University Bureau;

This is to be effective immediately. Announced on 14 June 1992, being the 47th year under reign of the present king;

Countersigned by Anan Panyarachun, prime minister.

Anan Interviewed on Cabinet

BK1406151892 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun granted an interview to newsmen at his home this afternoon. He said that the appointment of his cabinet ministers had been announced and added that he does not want his cabinet to be large, because it is a task force government which will be in office only for three to four months. The prime minister said the cabinet will take an oath of allegiance before the king tomorrow afternoon. The first cabinet meeting will be held on Tuesday, when he will inform his ministers about their duties. He will ask them to perform their duties with justice and honesty and to uphold the royal institution and the common interests of the people. He added he would like the ministries to make facts available to the public, if possible. Concerning the government's policy statement, the prime minister said the draft policy statement should be completed by late next week. He said he does not care whether MP's attend the parliamentary session when he makes his policy statement.

Asked about his choice of General Banchop Bunnak as defense minister, Prime Minister Anan said the events of the past had caused the people and the Army to lose their morale. He therefore has chosen a person with a cool head, who is patient and impartial, and also acceptable to the military. Gen. Banchop Bunnak has had an excellent military career and has never been involved in any political or military events.

Asked what he would do with reports that the politicians have repented and begged that there be no dissolution of the House, the prime minister said the matter will be decided by the House speaker. The prime minister said he does not care whether they want him to stay or quit, as he agreed to perform the duty only for a limited time—as requested by the House speaker, whom he considers to be speaking for the House of Representatives and all Thai people.

Asked if he had any concrete plans to solve the problem of vote buying, the prime minister asked for some time to think about it, because he has yet to assume office. Asked whether he would be free to carry out his responsibilities during his second tenure as prime minister, Prime Minister Anan said he is always free and always feels fine in doing his work. He therefore asked them not to worry.

Comments on Policy

BK1406013292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 14 Jun 92 pp 1, 3

[Excerpts] The new cabinet line-up composed of 25 members is expected to be announced today and the new ministers will swear-in before His Majesty the King tomorrow, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said last night.

Mr Anan, who met with a number of his former cabinet members yesterday, said the new cabinet list was completed and forwarded to His Majesty the King for approval last night.

He said only four of the 25 cabinet members will be new faces. Three of them will be deputy prime ministers.

"Three of the four new faces will serve as deputy ministers," the Prime Minister said.

Mr Anan said since former finance minister Suthi Singsane has declined to accept the position, one of the old members of his previous administration will take his place. [passage omitted]

After the swearing-in ceremony, the Government will deliver its policy statement to Parliament.

Mr Anan said the Government is ready to take criticism from members of Parliament despite the fact that he expects no problems.

"I respect them (MPs) and am glad to listen to their opinions because they are representatives of the people. Although I am not elected, I am now in the position to serve the people and Parliament as well," he said.

Asked about his Government's policy, Mr Anan said with only three to four months in office the Government will focus on preparations for a clean and fair election which will be held after Parliament is dissolved.

He said the first issue to be brought up for urgent action in the cabinet is the drought relief effort. The Government will seek close consultations with the Agriculture and Interior Ministries and agencies concerned over this matter.

Asked to disclose how he would solve political problems, the Prime Minister said the word "political problem" was too vague. He said that it might be too difficult for his Government to get everything solved within a short time.

"I think what is most important now is the election. We are duty bound to arouse the people's political awareness. We have to make them realise the necessity of electing good people with high morals and ethical standards to Parliament. They have to realise that the people they elect may be included in a new Government which is responsible for the country's administration".

The Prime Minister said the Government will have to pool all efforts and resources to make sure that good people are elected to Parliament.

"We have to provide unlimited information on various fields to the people so that they will know all the facts which will help them make the right decision in the election," Mr Anan said.

He said apart from Government agencies, non-governmental organisations should play a bigger role in the democracy campaign.

The Prime Minister said he wants to see more young people elected to Parliament so that they can be molded as honest and professional politicians.

Concerning a call for a constitutional change to lower the age of eligible voters to 18, Mr Anan said he did not think his Government would have time to touch on this matter and that he would rather leave it to the next administration.

Asked if the people could place hope in his Government to ensure justice regarding the military crackdown during May 17-20, Mr Anan said he would have to look into the findings of two investigation committees set up by the Government and Parliament.

"Please understand that the investigation is designed to uncover the facts that led to the bloodshed because we do not want to see a recurrence of it. The fact-finding investigation is not a court procedure to point out the culprits," he said.

"To find out who should be responsible is another procedure yet to be taken," he said.

The Prime Minister said he would probably meet with former prime minister Gen Suchinda Khraprayun in the near future.

On the issue of whether the Government would abolish the laws which give the military power, Mr Anan said he needed time.

"Let me look at this matter first. Any shortcomings and mistakes, if found, must be corrected. If possible, we will try to do it (the correction) while we are still in office."

On the issue that he might go against public opinion by appointing former cabinet members from the Suchinda administration "whose hands are soaked with blood," the PM tried to ease public fears.

"I am glad to take every opinion for consideration. I know I have to be meticulous (in making a decision). And whatever decision I make is based on sincerity and responsibility."

Firm on Dissolution, New Elections

BK1306031592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Jun 92 pp A1, A2

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun yesterday said the formation of his interim government was "95 per cent complete" and the only thing left is to persuade Suthi Singsaneh, the caretaker finance minister, to hold the same portfolio again.

Anan also declared that he would not yield to the pressure exerted by five pro-military parties for him to resign to allow them to form a new government without having to go through a general election.

"I will definitely not resign as I was appointed prime minister on condition that I will dissolve the House and oversee a general election," he said.

Prime Minister Anan said he would withhold the constitutional amendment requiring the prime minister to be a member of the House of Representatives for up to four weeks to ward off possible legal complications about his status.

Anan said he would forward to HM [His Majesty] the King the other three constitutional amendments for royal endorsement as soon as possible. The three amendments seek to make the House speaker the president of the Parliament, reduce the power of senators, and lift restrictions on parliamentary debate.

The prime minister said if he presented the amendment on the qualification of the chief executive for royal endorsement it could be interpreted to mean that his tenure would end as soon as the amendment went into effect.

"I don't want anyone to question my legal status as prime minister, although I know full well that it is legitimate," Anan said. "I would like to ask for public sympathy and understanding for that."

He said he would delay submitting the constitutional amendment in question for a few weeks but no longer than four weeks.

The prime minister insisted that the move was not designed to prolong his hold on power but to prevent possible legal complications from impeding his mission to dissolve the House of Representatives to pave the way for a general election.

Anan said he had consulted legal experts on the constitutional amendment requiring the prime minister to be an elected MP and was told that it could be interpreted in a way that would spark a debate on his legal status.

"Any doubt about my position would make it difficult for me to work," the prime minister said. "This (move) is not for my personal advantage. But I want transparency in whatever I do."

On the move by a group of MPs to resign in protest against his appointment, Anan said he was not bothered by their reaction.

"I will not be using Parliament to make laws anyway," the prime minister said. "As for the budget bill, I will take advantage of the practice allowed by the Constitution by enacting the bill using the 1992 government budget as a guideline."

The premier, speaking to reporters after a four-hour audience with HM the King at Chitlada Palace, said he wanted Suthi, the country's leading veteran financier who had served as finance minister in his interim government established after the Feb 23, 1991 coup, "to work for the country" again.

Anan refused to disclose the names of any individual Cabinet ministers, saying he will announce all of them at the same time.

The prime minister said he was having difficulty locating Suthee and wanted the media to relay the message that he really wanted to meet with him.

"I have tried unsuccessfully for two days to locate Khun Suthi. I really want to meet him and talk to him as an old friend and colleague," said Anan.

The premier said he understood that Suthi could be very tired since he was also affected by the political tension of the past two months.

Considering his performance during 14 months in the post-coup administration, Suthi had proven to be a very competent person, Anan said, adding that he wanted Suthi in his Cabinet partly because he is well-known both to local people and the international community.

Anan said he waited outside Suthi's home for half an hour on Thursday night but the latter would not come out to meet him although he repeatedly rang the doorbell.

The prime minister said he followed Suthi to a golf course yesterday but the latter sneaked away after having noticed his car come in.

Sources said Anan also planned to ask Suthi to take over a deputy premier post together with the finance portfolio.

Responding to a question regarding the call for him not to include supporters of the defunct National Peacekeeping Council in his government, Anan said those pro-military people would absolutely be excluded.

An informed source said last night that the new Cabinet is expected to be announced today and most of the ministers will be from Anan's post-coup government.

Pol Gen Phao Sarasin, who was Anan's deputy in the previous administration, was a possibility for interior minister while Gen Banchop Bunnak and Gen Thianchai Sirisamphan were candidates for the defence portfolio, the source said.

Former agriculture minister Anat Aphaphirom yesterday said he had rejected Anan's invitation for him to serve in the same post again in the new government, citing his preoccupation with his private mass transit business.

Anan said he thought the person most suited to the post is former deputy agriculture minister Khosit Panpiamrat.

Sources said last night Khosit already agreed yesterday to accept the ministerial post.

Budget Bureau adviser and leading businessman Thawi Nunphakdi yesterday said Suthi likely did not want the finance portfolio because he was too tired .

He (Suthi) told me that he was tired and wanted to select a new career for himself after having been in financial positions for more than 10 years, said Thawi.

Thawi said Suthi had agreed to play golf with him at the Kiatthani course yesterday but abruptly cancelled the appointment.

Academics Critical of New Cabinet

BK1506020592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Jun 92 p 3

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Leading academics yesterday expressed opposition to the inclusion of ministers from the unpopular Suchinda Khraprayun Government in the new Cabinet lineup announced yesterday.

Somyot Chueathai, dean of Thammasat University's law faculty, said although he is happy with the new lineup which is better than the pro-military coalition, he disagreed with the inclusion of several "old faces".

"I do not agree with the premier bringing in several former members of the Suchinda Government who must share responsibility for the bloody suppression of pro-democracy protesters," Prof Somyot said.

Dr Pricha Suwannathat, another law lecturer at Thammasat University, pointed out that several people, in particular M.R. Pridiyathon Thewakun, should not have been selected for the new Cabinet lineup because he served in the Suchinda administration.

"The government would have had a much better image without M.R. Pridiyathon," he said.

He also criticised the new lineup, which will be in power for only a short period of time, for having too many deputies.

Dr Pokin Pollakun, director of Law Graduate Studies Programme of Ramkhamhaeng University's Faculty of Law, said M.R. Pridiyathon has been with many governments, including the Chatchai Chunhawan Government and those of Mr Anan and Gen Suchinda, regardless of whether they were elected or dictatorial.

He also said that although Mr Khosit Panpiamrat had served only as general-secretary in the Suchinda administration, he should have shown some responsibility for the May 17-20 bloodshed by not accepting the post of the Agricultural and Co-Operatives Minister in the new Government.

Dr Pokin said that, judging from the lineup, the new Government looks as if it will be in power for a lot longer than many people think.

"If this is the case, it will go against the public desire to dissolve Parliament," the academic said.

"The present Government has the urgent priority of restoring public morale and it can do this by taking a clear stand on the much-opposed Amnesty Decree and bringing those responsible for the bloodshed to justice.

"This must be followed immediately by a dissolution of Parliament in order for the people to have revenge on the politicians who betrayed them.

"Mr Anan appears to have missed the point in trying to restore the country's image by appointing well-known technocrats to his Cabinet when he should have brought the persons who were responsible for the killing to justice."

He suggested that the premier dissolve the House immediately otherwise problems may be created again by former coalition MPs.

Army Chief Approves Defense Minister Appointment

BK1506014392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 Jun 92 p 3

[Excerpt] Army Deputy Chief of Staff Lt-Gen Yutthana Khamdi yesterday welcomed the appointment of Gen Banchop Bunnak as Defence Minister, saying the general is a highly respected military figure both within and outside the Armed Forces.

"He comes from the Armed Forces and knows a lot about military affairs. I am sure he will be able to handle the work well and will not have any problem with the Armed Forces' members," Lt-Gen Yutthana said.

Asked what role Gen Banchop could contribute towards the widespread call for the removal of top military leaders involved in the May 17-20 bloodbath, Lt-Gen Yutthana said he could not comment.

"This is an affair of puyai (senior commanders). The appointments and the transfers of soldiers are based on principles, regulations, suitability and fairness," he said.

When asked for his assurance that soldiers will not meddle with politics again, Lt-Gen Yutthana said soldiers have never meddled in politics. Soldiers only interfered when there were problems, he said. [passage omitted]

Banchop Grants First Interview

BK1406154492 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] General Banchop Bunnak, the newly appointed defense minister, talked to newsmen about his feelings after learning about his appointment. He said he felt grateful for the trust given to him by his majesty the king. Asked if he has worries in assuming the office, Gen. Banchop said he could not say so because this is the responsibility to the government and country, and he must perform to the best of his ability. Asked what he would do to mend the current rift between the Army and the people, the minister said Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun had already told the press his policy on this matter. Gen. Banchop said the guideline given by the prime minister was very good and he believed everyone would take it as a guideline for their duties.

National Unity Called Alternative to Dissolution

BK1406020092 Bangkok THE NATION in English 14 Jun 92 pp A1, A2

[Excerpts] The establishment of a government of national unity, comprising all parties, could be one solution to the lack of strong political leadership among members of parliament, House Speaker Athit Urairat said yesterday.

Athit stressed that he now considers a government of national unity as an alternative to dissolving the House which would pave the way for a general eletion.

"Until today, I can see no other way out of the political deadlock except to dissolve the House," he added.

However, he emphasized that such a move, if carried out, must have the public's consent.

"If the people agree to the idea, political parties can then ask Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun not to dissolve the House and allow them to set up a government of national unity," Athit said.

But the House speaker did not say how political parties would be able to know the public's stand on the issue.

"If the people don't want them to do so, then they will have no legitimacy to form such a government," he said. [passage omitted]

Athit said he would not leave the Samakkhi Tham Party unless the party executive committee expelled him.

He said he was prepared to explain to his party colleages why he nominated Anan instead of Chat Thai Party leader Sombun Rahong, who was backed by the pro-military six-party coalition.

"I love my party, but I love my country more," he said.

Athit said he had never thought about resigning as House speaker and that he would continue to perform his duty to the best of his ability.

He declined to comment on reports that there had been a rift within Samakkhi Tham, saying all members are trying to work together for the party.

Meanwhile, Athit said in a taped political discussion programme, which will be aired on TV Channel 5 today, that the next general election will be different as the people had become more politicized especially after the popular uprising against the Suchinda government last month.

Athit said Anan's appointment would bring peace and order to the country and would also contribute towards reconciliation among the people, political parties and the armed forces.

The House speaker said he believed Anan will be able to find a compromise solution acceptable to all those involved in the May 17-20 bloody crackdown against the pro-democracy movement.

He said he decided not to nominate ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun as prime minister because that would not solve the potentially-explosive situation.

He added that Thailand's image had been tarnished in the eyes of the international community following the massacre.

He said the nomination of Anan was the best way to resolve the political problems.

"The House dissolution would eventually take place if Sombun or (Democrat Party leader) Chuan (Likpai) was nominiated to the premiership," he added [passage omitted].

Asked about his political future, Athit said he is thinking of washing his hands of politics and had no plans to set up his own political party.

Social Action Party Leaves Ex-Ruling Coalition

BK1306035992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Jun 92 p A2

[Text] The Social Action Party yesterday declared an end to its alliance with the four other partners in the doomed Suchinda administration as the embattled political bloc scrapped a plan to have their MPs resign en masse to protest Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's appointment.

"After the appointment of the new prime minister, it's like the first day after an election, where there are no agreements binding us. Every agreement among the (five) parties ceased to exist the minute the prime minister was appointed," said Social Action Party leader Montri Phongphanit.

Social Action spokesman Piyanat Watcharaphon confirmed his party's new stand.

"Our cooperation in the past was for the sake of the country. Now we are free," Piyanat said.

Earlier in the day, the five parties held separate meetings to discuss the mass resignation plan, which was intended to snub interim Prime Minister Anan who had pledged to dissolve the House of Representatives and call a snap election.

Sources said the five parties' leaders apparently thought that if the House is really to be dissolved, it should be MPs, not Anan, who make it happen.

But only one party decided to back the resignation plan. Prachakon Thai, whose leader Samak Suntharawet has decided to quit politics, decided all of its seven MPs would resign from the House.

Montri said his party was willing to cooperate with Anan's government.

"The (interim) government was set up in order to solve national problems and end quarrels and divisions. The Social Action Party is ready to be a good representative of the people," he said.

"This is a good moment, and it will always be good. We must realize that members of this new government have sacrificed a lot. Our country is healing. We are no longer in a crisis. Social Action will never stir up trouble."

Social Action, with 31 MPs, has been considered a major variable in the political game in which the five-party alliance has held slim majority support in the House. Its refusal to join the Opposition's attempt to form an alternative government after Prime Minister Suchinda Khaprayun's resignation helped create a political stalemate and fears of fresh military intervention.

Social Action's biggest ally, the Samakkhi Tham Party, dismissed the mass resignation idea on the grounds that it was "trusted" by the people.

"The majority of Samakkhi Tham MPs believe we should not resign because we are trusted by the people whose votes made us the biggest political party," Samakkhi Tham spokesman Suchat Tancharoen told a press conference.

Samakkhi Tham MPs want to stay on even though the House's days are numbered "because we want to monitor this government which is made up of the same people who formed the post-coup administration whose policies caused public suffering," he said.

There was speculation yesterday about possible "retaliation" by Anan if all MPs of the five parties resigned from Parliament. If Anan decided to call by-elections instead of dissolving the House, the five parties would be the lone losers.

Samakkhi Tham members also agreed yesterday to seek clarification from House Speaker Athit Urairat about his decision to nominate Anan as new prime minister. Athit rejected the five parties' nomination of Chat Thai Party leader Sombun Rahong, who was widely opposed by the public.

"Party members want Dr Athit's explanation. He will be summoned to a party meeting next week," Suchat said.

Earlier, the Student Federation of Thailand submitted an open letter to Samakkhi Tham, asking the party not to try to block the planned House dissolution.

The Chat Thai Party, meanwhile, decided not to pull out of the House because "we want to perform our duty for the people's interest," according to deputy party leader Thawit Klinprathum.

Chat Thai member Songtham Panyadi resigned as an MP on Thursday.

Chat Thai spokesman Prathuang Wichanpricha described Songtham's resignation as a unilateral move.

"Party executives agreed that we should carry out our duty until the last minute," Prathuang said.

However, the Chat Thai Party wants the Samakkhi Tham Party to "show responsibility" for the House speaker's shocking move that dashed the five parties' hope of clinging to power.

Asked to comment on calls for Athit's removal as House speaker, Thawit said: "The Samakkhi Tham Party is responsible for that. (Athit's action) was a stab in the back for the Chat Thai Party."

Further Reaction to Anan Appointment

Dailies Praise Nomination

BK1206085792

[Editorial Report] Three Thai-language dailies, MATICHON, NEAO NA, and SIAM RAT, on 12 June carry editorials praising House Speaker Athit Urairat for having proposed the name of former Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun for appointment as Thailand's 20th prime minister.

MATICHON's 600-word editorial on page 8, entitled "Deserve the Position," says: "Once again, House Speaker Athit Urairat has done the right thing for the interest of the country by proposing the name of the person well accepted by the general public for the prime minister's nomination. By so doing, he has found a beautiful way to untie the country's political impasse. The house speaker's performance of duty this time is praised by the sane people in the entire nation but also disappoints a number of politicians whose interests are adversely affected."

The paper says House Speaker Athit Urairat has "placed the national interests over those of the party he belongs to and set a good precedent for the institute of the House of Representatives." Anticipating strong criticism against the House speaker's action, the editorial says Athit Urairat truly "deserves the position of the speaker of the House of Representatives."

NAEO NA's 700-word editorial on page 4, entitled: "Clear Sky After the Rainstorm," notes: "Wednesday 10th June is the day of double luck for the Thai people in the entire nation. The first piece of luck is a more democratic constitution. After its passage in the third reading, endorsement by the royal signature, and publication in the royal gazette, the amended Constitution cannot be changed or abolished except by a coup. The second piece of luck is the royal appointment of Anan Panyarachun as the country's 20th prime minister. From his neutral stand, Anan Panyarachun and his government are expected to settle various problems now facing the country, improve the country's image, create national reconciliation, and eventually dissolve the House to return the power to the people before organizing a clean and fair general election."

The editorial praises House Speaker Dr. Athit Urairat for bringing such blessings to the country, noting that his courage and good deed will be "engraved in the history of Thailand's politics forever."

In conclusion, the paper urges the Thai eligible voters to exercise their voting right in the next general election and vote for the candidates who truly serve the country's interest.

SIAM RAT's 500-word editorial on page 3, entitled: "Welcome the New Prime Minister," reviews the legal aspects of the nomination of Anan Panyarachun as the prime minister and says: "The appointment of His Excellency Anan Panyarachun is totally in compliance with the unamended Constitution."

The paper notes that Anan Panyarachun has been reputed for his integrity and impartiality and that his reappointment as the country's 20th prime minister is aimed at restoring the democratic form of government in the country. The editorial praises House Speaker Athit Urairat for having chosen Anan Panyarachun and wishes the new prime minister fine successes.

SRV's Vo Van Kiet Congratulates Anan

BK1306075292 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 13 Jun 92 p 24

[Text] The Vietnamese Embassy in Thailand on 12 June released a message from Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet congratulating Anan Panyarachun who was reappointed prime minister of Thailand. The message says: On behalf of the government and people of Vietnam, we commend your performance in building good relations between Thailand and Vietnam, and we wish to see the strengthening of our relations in the interests of our two nations as well as that of peace and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

Top Phnom Penh Leader Visits Bangkok

BK1506051292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0502 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Bangkok, June 15 (AFP)—A top leader of the Phnom Penh government arrived here Monday, airport sources said.

No further detail was immediately available on the visit by Chea Sim, chairman of Phnom Penh's National Assembly, but it appeared to be private.

Chea Sim's wife has been treated here since she was injured in a helicopter accident in eastern Cambodia late last month.

Chea Sim visited here in January for secret talks with Thai military leaders and unspecified medical checks. He is known to have suffered a mild stroke in late 1989.

SRV Urged To Renegotiate Stalled Fishing Pacts

BK1306052992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 13 Jun 92 p A2

[Text] Thailand yesterday urged Vietnam to renegotiate the stalled fishing cooperation agreements without linking the matter to the release of arrested Vietnamese sailors in Thai custody.

A Foreign Ministry official, who asked not to be identified, said Vietnam should treat conflicts with Thailand on a case-by-case basis.

"Hanoi should consider dealing with the mutual disputes case by case and should not link them to the full context of our relationship," said the official.

He was referring to a series of protests by the Vietnamese authorities demanding the release of 30 Vietnamese crewmen, believed to be navy personnel, who were arrested by the Thai Navy in March and May.

He said the question of Thailand releasing the Vietnamese crewmen is not connected with any future negotiations on the fishing agreement, initiated last year under former foreign minister Asa Sarasin.

Vietnamese Ambassador to Thailand Nguyen Trung had earlier hinted that if Thailand agreed to free the 30 arrested crewmen, whom Vietnam claimed were patrolling inside its own waters, Hanoi might reconsider the aborted signing of the fisheries cooperation agreement.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said early this week that Thailand is ready to sit down with Hanoi to renegotiate the fisheries agreement, which would boost bilateral economic relations.

"The agreement would end the fishing conflicts between Thailand and Vietnam," the spokesman said.

The draft agreement was initiated and had been expected to be signed during Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's visit to Hanoi last January. Vietnam said at the time its provincial authorities protested against the agreement.

The fishing agreement would allow trawlers of both countries to fish in each other's waters. It is also designed to eliminate longstanding Thai-Vietnamese fishing disputes.

In the past, Vietnam has arrested Thai fishermen and seized Thai trawlers fishing illegally in its waters.

The source said that any arrested Vietnamese would be put on trial here.

Paging Service With Vietnam To Be Launched

BK1306092192 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English GMT 1500 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Singapore Telecom Company has joined Shinnawat Paging Company, a leading operator of paging services in Thailand, to launch a paging service between Thailand and Vietnam.

The service, beginning next month, will not only serve Phone-Link customers in Thailand but also foreigners renting the service in Ho Chi Minh City, Shinnawat Paging managing director said. Shinnawat Paging is jointly owned by the Shinnawat Group, which holds 60 percent of the firm's shares, and Singapore Telecom.

Under the new joint venture plan, Singapore Telecom will use its experience in operating a successful pager network in Thailand to run a network in Ho Chi Minh City under a concession awarded by Ho Chi Minh Post and Telegraph, the Shinnawat Paging managing director said. He also said the two countries' systems will be linked via satellite, with a network capable of serving 3,000 pagers in Ho Chi Minh City.

Vietnam

Chairman Vo Van Kiet's Recent Activities Noted

Congratulates Thailand's Anan

BK1206153992 Hanoi VNA in English 1438 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 12—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet today sent his congratulations to Mr. Anan Panyarachun on his appointment as prime minister of Thailand.

In his message, the Vietnamese premier said that Vietnam highly appreciated Mr. Anan's contributions to the development of the [words indistinct] relations between the two countries.

The message wishes for further development and strengthening of the friendship, cooperation and relations of good neighbourhood between Vietnam and Thailand in the interests of each country and for peace, stability and cooperation in Southeast Asia.

Receives New Zealand Ambassador

BK1206160192 Hanoi VNA in English 1441 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA [dateline indistinct]—"Vietnam respects and wants to develop its friendship and multiform cooperation with New Zealand for peace, stability, friendship and cooperation in the region and the world as a whole", said Premier Vo Van Kiet while receiving here this afternoon the new New Zealand Ambassador Phillip Henry Gibson.

The Vietnamese leader thanked the government and people of New Zealand for their humanitarian aid programmes for Vietnam. He also spoke about possibilities of bilateral cooperation between Vietnam and New Zealand.

For his part, Phillip Henry Gibson said his government's policy is to strengthen friendship and cooperation with countries in Asia and the Pacific among which Vietnam plays an important role. In this spirit, he said, his government would shortly [words indistinct] economic delegation to Vietnam to discuss concrete steps toward cooperation in economy, trade and personnel training. New Zealand particularly wants to cooperate with Vietnam in afforestation, cattle breeding and food processing as well as in development.

Visits Vinh Phu, Lao Cai Provinces

BK1306142592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Report by Dinh Khai]

[Summary] "From 6-7 June, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet paid a working visit to the Provinces of Vinh Phu and Lao Cai to assess and guide the local socioeconomic development.

"On 6 June in Viet Tri city, Comrade Tran Dang, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the provincial party committee; Comrade Bui Huu Hai, chairman of the Vinh Phu provincial people's committee; and a number of key local cadres briefed the Council of Ministers chairman on some aspects of the local socioeconomic situation and raised a number of urgent issues to be resolved in order to accelerate the local socioeconomic development program in the days ahead."

"Expressing his views to comrade leading cadres in Vinh Phu Province, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet commended the local party organizations and people for having effected new changes in agricultural production, industrial development, and city building.

"In praising the achievements of the Hop Thinh Agricultural Cooperative, the comrade expressed the hope that many villages and cooperatives in Vinh Phu would catch up with this unit in the movement to contribute to making the people rich and the country powerful."

The Council of Ministers chairman brought to the attention of the Vinh Phu provincial party committee the poor living conditions of some of the local people, including many social welfare recipients. He stressed that along with the central government assistance, prompt measures must be taken to help the needy overcome their difficulties.

"Regarding industrial production, to ensure a steady growth rate, Vinh Phu must join hands with the entire nation in the struggle against smugglers and fake goods producers, and must also seek ways to compete with foreign products. He stressed that while it is necessary to enter joint business ventures and improve the conditions of equipment and technology, it is of utmost importance to avoid accepting outdated, ineffective technological applications.

"Here again, the Council of Ministers chairman reminded Vinh Phu of the need to attach importance to greening fallow land and bare hills, which is a major national program. Another issue of equal importance is the provision of capital to projects likely to bring about practical results.

"Regarding culture and education, the Council of Ministers chairman reminded everyone of the need to work out prompt measures to build different types of schools and classrooms, streamline personnel according to state directives to improve the quality of education, and make everyone heighten the sense of responsibility toward education and positively contribute to human resources development."

While in Lao Cai, Chairman Vo Van Kiet was briefed by the deputy secretary of the provincial party committee and the chairman of the provincial people's committee on the master plan for the reconstruction of the district capital of Lao Cai, as well as on urgent local socioeconomic issues.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet sympathized with the difficulties the mountain province of Lao Cai has encountered since the redelineation of its administrative boundaries. He commended the province for having promptly relocated the various leading organs to the new district capital and for having concentrated efforts on restoring production and stabilizing life.

Sharing his views with the audience, Chairman Vo Van Kiet pointed out that in the short term, Lao Cai should focus on the zoning of the food and industrial crop cultivated areas, on capital provision, and on the renovation of the management mechanism to effectively exploit forest land, fallow land, and bare hills. Efforts are needed to encourage people to shift from the slash-and-burn agricultural practice to planting crops of high economic values. Steps must be taken to develop industrial and small industrial and handicraft activities, as well as concentrate on processing agricultural and forest products. Plans must be worked out to make full use of existing checkpoints to enter joint business ventures with provinces along the Sino-Vietnamese border.

The Council of Ministers chairman reminded the administrative organs at the provincial, district, and village levels to do all they can to help the local people in disease prevention, medical care and treatment, and improvement of their material and spiritual life. Altogether, the province only has enough schools for 31 percent of children of school-going age. This calls for proper attention and adequate investment, including a temporary halt in the construction of a number of unnecessary projects to have money to build schools first.

Visits Electricity Corporation

BK1406083992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Text] Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet recently visited the Electricity Research and Planning Corporation No. 1 of the Ministry of Energy, a main unit of the electricity sector that has been assigned to conduct research work and draw up plans for construction of the 500-kilovolt north-south power grid.

In 1989 the corporation was entrusted by the Ministry of Labor and the state with conducting research and establishing economic and technical dialectics for the 500-kilovolt north-south powerline project. At present, together with Electricity Research and Planning Corporation No. 2 and (Nippon Kuei) Company of Japan, the corporation is concentrating efforts on improving general data for construction of the 500-kilovolt north-south power grid.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet commended cadres, workers, and personnel of the corporation for having overcome difficulties in order to fulfill their assignments. He expressed the hope that the corporation will mobilize to a high degree the intellect of its contingent of scientific and technical cadres in order to most satisfactorily carry out their research and planning work. This is aimed at promptly furthering the construction of the 500-kilovolt north-south powerline network, ensuring technical safety and quality and avoiding waste.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet entrusted the corporation with the task of coordinating with Electricity Research and Planning Corporation No. 2 in concentrating manpower and material on computing calculations to ensure sufficient data for research work and for the establishment of economic and technical dialectics to support construction of the Song Hinh and Ia Ly projects and the expansion of the Pha Lai thermoelectric powerplant and other thermoelectric and hydroelectric projects in the south.

Addresses Conference on Cooperation

BK1406140892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] A conference was held from 9-10 June to discuss ways of bettering the socioeconomic cooperation between northern provinces and cities. Addressing the meeting, Premier Vo Van Kiet urged northern provinces and cities to do their best to exploit their potential, make full use of their strengths, and adopt appropriate policies and measures in their cooperation.

Vo Chi Cong Inspects Thai Binh 1-5 Jun

BK1506073792 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Report on Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong's 1-5 June inspection of preparations for the Ninth National Assembly Elections in Thai Binh Province—portions recorded]

[Summary] "Comrade Vo Chi Cong, adviser to the party Central Committee, chairman of the Council of State, and chairman of the Electoral Council for the Ninth National Assembly, inspected preparations for the election of deputies to the Ninth National Assembly in Thai Binh Province.

"Chairman Vo Chi Cong heard the leading comrades of the provincial party committee and the standing members of the Provincial People's Committee and People's Councils give briefings on the implementation of their 1990-91 socioeconomic activities as well as on their 1992 tasks.

"Thai Binh is a densely-populated province where average per capita land area is only 0.13 hectare and where industries are small and in need of capital investment and technical equipment. It is because of this that the province has met difficulties carrying its economic development. However, thanks to the efforts made by the local party organization and people, the province's 1991 gross social product reached 1,615 billion dong, an increase of 559 billion dong over 1990, with the agricultural sector accounting for 79 percent of this figure. Specifically, the 1991 10th-month crop harvest proved sucessful with the average rice yield amounting to 51.28 qintals per hectare—the highest ever."

The province's average per capita rice output in 1991 was nearly 600 kg. Animal husbandry and aquaculture activities have been stabilized. However, "the export-oriented handicraft manufacturing industry has been in a state of stagnancy and workers are being out of work."

Chairman Vo Chi Cong visited the Nghiem Xa agricultural cooperative in Dong Hung District, a heroic unit known for its great contributions to the national war of resistance.

"Chairman Vo Chi Cong heartily hailed the results achieved by the party organization and people of Nghiem Xa. He expressed hope that Thai Binh Province would have more socialist countryside models like Nghiem Xa. The chairman spent a great deal of time hearing the administrative committee of the Nghiem Xa cooperative report on the situation and on those problems encountered in implementing Contract 10 [meaning the Council of Ministers chairman's Directive No.10 on applying the contract system in agriculture].

"The chairman, accompanied by local cadres, visited those peasants who were harvesting rice at a site where new, high-yield rice varieties had been planted. Chairman Vo Chi Cong also visited a number of production establishments, including the Jute United Enterprise, in Thai Binh in a bid to understand the local situation. On behalf of the party and the state, the chairman hailed those initial results achieved by the enterprise. He urged the province to pay attention to helping the enterprise improve its product quality, reduce its production costs, and streamline its production force in an effort to turn the enterprise into a spearhead sector of the province."

In his capacity as chairman of the National Electoral Council for the Ninth National Assembly, "the chairman urged the provincial electoral committee to pay attention to the quality standards of those candidates recommended for contesting the election, saying that they must have good qualities, namely, be trusted by the people and be qualified for the state's highest organ of power. Attention must also be paid to the structure of deputies—as they will represent the voice of the people of various strata and the many sectors—and to other cadres such as female cadres, scientific, technological, and educational cadres."

Addressing a get-together of the province's leading cadres, "Chairman Vo Chi Cong heartily hailed the party organization and the people of Thai Binh Province for having maintained their tradition over the years as an agricultural province known for its good records in intensive rice cultivation and in the attainment of high rice yields. In particular, the province attained its highest ever output in the 1991-92 10th-month rice crops."

He went on: [Begin Vo Chi Cong recording] "The Central Electoral Council recently met to evaluate the preparations for the election in accordance with the law. The council set forth the following major tasks to ensure satisfactory elections:

—"First, it is necessary to accelerate spreading widespread propanda among various strata of the people so they can realize the significance of this election, uphold their sense of responsibility as voters, and enthusiastically turn up in full force to cast their votes to elect deputies to our state's highest organ of power. In providing guidance for work implementation, electoral committees must truly uphold democratic principles and abide by the law.

—"Second, it is necessary to promptly prepare the voter lists for various areas and localities for the second and third times if we are to finalize voter lists as required by law. Meanwhile, efforts must be made to prepare all the material conditions needed for the election.

—"Third, it is necessary to arrange activities aimed at maintaining public security, social order, and safety during the election in accordance with a plan of the Ministry of Interior if we are to provide absolute security for the election day.

"To maintain the initiative, the provincial electoral committee must anticipate a situation in which the election cannot be held on schedule due to natural calamities such as floods and typhoons. There are only 45 days to go before the election day arrives. The provincial party committee is therefore requested, to actively carry out, through the provincial electoral committee and front committee, those activities cited above, which are aimed at satisfactorily fulfilling all the most central tasks in the period ahead.

"I wish the party organization and people of Thai Binh greater achievements in all respects in 1992.

"I wish you good health and your families happiness" [end recording]

3d Round of Election Consultations Completed

BK1406141192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] By 10 June the Fatherland Front committees in the various provinces and cities throughout the country had completed the third round of consultations to unanimously nominate candidates. These candidates will stand in elections held to elect deputies to the Ninth National Assembly. Arrangements have been made for candidates to meet voters and explain the tasks they will fulfill once elected to the National Assembly.

Compared with the Eighth National Assembly, there is an increase in the percentages of women, ethnic minorities, non-party members, and young candidates. The provinces of Tuyen Quang, Quang Nam-Da Nang, Hoa Binh, Gia Lai, and Lai Chau have selected candidates belonging to typical Dao, Cong, Gia-rai, Ba-na, Ha Nhi, and Hmong ethnic groups. Except for four candidates nominated by the central echelon, two out of 16 candidates in Nam Ha Province are leading Catholic officials.

The Ho Chi Minh City Fatherland Front Committee convened a consultative conference and agreed to put 36 individuals on the namelist of candidates to stand for the National Assembly elections. Twenty-nine of them were nominated by the city and seven others were recommended by the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee.

Generally speaking, the number of candidates nominated by the various provinces and cities is far greater than the number of deputies needed to form the National Assembly, thus creating conditions for voters to select the candidates of their choice.

Chief Delegate Addresses Earth Summit

BK1406122992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 10 Jun 92

[Speech by Council of Ministers Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh, head of the Vietnamese delegation, at the World Summit on the Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Today when the earth's natural resources are being increasingly exploited and mankind's negative effects on the surrounding environment are becoming ever-greater, mankind has felt the serious threat of punishment by nature. This unprecedentedly serious threat is compelling mankind to take actions on a global scale through drastic and effective measures. This threat is also prompting the world community to seek to improve the capabilities of every nation in tackling the problems facing each country while urging every country to contribute to solving those common problems now facing mankind, now that separate efforts can no longer ensure the harmonious relations between mankind and nature.

The drafts of the Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Action Program 21 meticulously prepared by those in the preparatory committee have, in general, reflected the concern, aspirations, and objectives of mankind desirous of leading a healthy and diverse life in harmony with nature. They have also reflected the right and obligations of everyone in ensuring an endurable development, with environmental preservation being an integral part in the process of development.

Action Program 21 has outlined many activities to be carried out in the domain of the environment, as well as essential measures. The two foremost issues regarding new financial sources and increased technological transfer have sparked the longest and most heated debates among various debatable issues. They are, indeed, the two most essential issues.

Just like me, I think that all of you are desirous to see the Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Action Program 21 soon become reality and be implemented, instead of ending up as historical documents lying dormant in archives.

We have referred to the earth as our own house and have spoken about global joint actions. But, your excellencies, we cannot take such joint actions if problems are not given the proper attention and tackled in a proper manner. This is due to the wide disparity between countries in demands and capabilities. Given historical conditions in developing countries over the past few hundred years and with a population now of some 4.2 billion, over 50 percent of the developing countries' people live under the poverty line, over 150 million children in developing countries face malnutrition, and some 1.5 billion people in the developing countries live without health care, even though developing countries possess over 75 percent of the world's total natural resources.

These countries normally must live under harsh natural conditions such as never-ending drought and frequent typhoons and floods. They are compelled to exploit their natural resources by rudimentary and even irrational means to subsist. Facing such harsh conditions, developing countries have still had to shoulder a debt of 1,500 billion U.S. dollars. Where can they find the money for advanced environmental cleaning technologies—the products of complex scientific research and huge investment—while they are trying to industrialize their economies? We should instead point out that developing countries, although accounting for only 25 percent of the world's population, have consumed over 70 percent of the total energy, nearly 80 percent of the total marketable fuel, and over 80 percent of the total timber output of the world and have emitted three-fourths of the world's total amount of carbon dioxide. It is because of this that the seventh principle of the draft of the Rio de Janeiro Declaration says: Due to varying contributions to the deteriorating global environment, countries share common but different levels of responsibility.

Thus under these historical and actual conditions, developed countries should adopt a clear-cut attitude toward providing developing countries with financial aid and technological transfer. This is a fundamental and indispensable issue if we wish to demonstrate our willingness by practical actions symbolic of global strength to solve those common problems facing the globe and to ensure the development and stability of this planet.

The summit secretariat has come up with the figure of a 120 billion-U.S.-dollar annual budget to be given as additional international aid to developing countries. This budget, plus the 600 billion U.S. dollars collected from within these countries, will make it possible for developing countries to implement Action Program 21. This additional aid money is truly a huge figure. But this figure is nothing compared to the thousands of billions of U.S. dollars earmarked for the annual defense budgets of various countries of the world, as cited in the Tokyo Declaration of 7 April 1992.

We welcome the positive attitude and goodwill of a number of developed countries toward the question of providing financial aid to developing countries.

After pointing out difficulties now encountered by Vietnam in accelerating environmental preservation, Council of Ministers Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh spoke of Vietnam's efforts in this domain, such as reducing the population growth rate, promoting increased afforestation and forest preservation, fighting floods and typhoons, and developing a long-lasting industry, with special attention given to the rational use of land and water resources.

The comrade went on: Realizing its responsibility toward the people, the Vietnamese Government will have to do many things for long-range national development. We also realize the need to have global efforts. Like other developing countries, apart from mobilizing all our potential, we also need the assistance of the world community. I think that in accordance with the lofty goal of this summit, we will frankly discuss with anyone our willingness to arrive at better mutual understandings and at realistic, rational, and effective actions.

The Vietnamese delegation wishes to make its modest contribution to mutual understanding as well as to the outcome of the Rio de Janeiro Summit.

Various Economic, Commercial Agreements Signed

Germany To Increase 1992 Aid

BK1306153192 Hanoi VNA in English 1432 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 13—Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam paid an official visit to Germany from June 8-10, 1992 at the invitation of the German Government.

While in Germany, Minister Nguyen Manh Cam had talks with German Minister of Foreign Affairs Klaus Kinkel and Minister of Economic Cooperation Carol-Dieter Spranger. He also met with the chairman of the External Relations Department of the Bundestag, and representatives of the German trade unions and business circles.

At the talks, the German side said that it is considering the extension of the term of the financial guarantee and speeding up preparations for the signing of an agreement on investment promotion and guarantee and an agreement on avoidance of double taxation. He also announced that the German Government has decided to increase financial and technical aid to Vietnam in 1992 by 38 percent....

The two sides also signed an agreement on Germany's grant of 10 million DM [Deutsche marks] to help Vietnamese repatriates from Germany to set up enterprises and to require new skills.

On June 11, Nguyen Manh Cam arrived in Amsterdam for an official visit to the Netherlands at the invitation of the Dutch foreign minister. At the talks, the two sides agreed to do their best to raise the quality of the relations between the two countries in the coming period, especially in the expansion of their economic and commercial relations.

In the immediate future, the two sides agreed to proceed with the negotiations to sign an agreement on investment promotion and guarantee, an agreement on avoidance of double taxation and an agreement on aviation.

The Dutch Government has announced that it will grant 15 million guilders as aid to Vietnam to implement the projects on higher education and training and water supply.

Memorandum on Australian Aid Signed

BK1406141692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, 11 June, in Hanoi, empowered by the two governments, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Vu Tien Hoang and Australian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Michael John Potts signed a memorandum on the Australian Government's decision to provide Vietnam with $1.8 million Australian dollars in aid for the 1991-92 financial year. The aid will be used to buy 5,000 tonnes of urea fertilizer to be shipped to Vietnam soon to support production.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Deputy Minister Vu Tien Hoang thanked the Australian ambassador and government for providing Vietnam's agricultural production with practical assistance, regarding this as proof of its support for the renovation in Vietnam and as part of its efforts to consolidate bilateral relations.

Trade With Hong Kong on Upswing

BK1406073892 Hanoi VNA in English 0602 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 14—Engaged in 103 projects totalling 515 million US dollars, Hong Kong now ranks second among the foreign investors in Vietnam, after Taiwan which has 56 projects capitalized at 743 million US dollars.

Bilateral trade between Vietnam and Hong Kong chalked up 551 million US dollars in 1991, after Singapore and Japan which accounted each for one billion US dollars in trade exchanges in the same year.

Besides, Hong Kong also acts a a re-exporter of goods made in Japan, China, Taiwan; ninety three percent of its exports to Vietnam came from these countries. Its imports from Vietnam represent about half the value of exports.

Hong Kong companies are engaged in real estate projects in Vietnam, building hotels, offices, commercial centres, houses, restaurants, clubs, container ports... capitalized at hundreds of millions of US dollars.

In particular, companies from Hong Kong had stakes in 18 enterprises in Ho Chi Minh City.

Cooperation With French Radio Cited

BK1306153092 Hanoi VNA in English 1416 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 13—A delegation of the Radio Francaise Internationale (RFI) led by its chairman and director general Andreir Lapkier visited Vietnam from June 10-12 as guest of the Voice of Vietnam radio. The guests were welcomed by Phan Quang, director general of the Voice of Vietnam. In line with the decisions of the Franco-Vietnamese intergovernmental commission for cultural, scientific and technical cooperation, the two sides discussed and concretized the cooperation agreement between the two radios. RFI will continue supplying the Voice of Vietnam with music programmes and original documents for use in French teaching over the radio. RFI will receive sub-editors of the Voice of Vietnam for practice tours in France. For its part, the Vietnamese radio is ready to cooperate with RFI in producing high-quality music programmes in order to introduce Vietnamese traditional music through RFI and other radios in the world.

Agreement With Byelarus Signed

BK1206064392 Hanoi VNA in English 0552 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 12—A protocol on economic and commercial cooperation for 1992 between Vietnam and Byelarus was signed in Minsk on June 10.

Signatories were Le Kim Lang, deputy minister of commerce and tourism, and N.A. Makayev, deputy head of the State Commission for Foreign Economic Relations of the Republic of Byelarus.

Le Kim Lang has also met with the Chairman of the Byelarus State Commission for Foreign Economic Relations Ravkevich.

Ties With Moldova Established

BK1206063792 Hanoi VNA in English 0550 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 12—Vietnam and the Republic of Moldova have signed a protocol establishing diplomatic relations.

The protocol was signed in Moscow yesterday by Vietnamese Ambassador to Russia Ho Huan Nghiem and First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova Ion Chebuk.

National Assembly Delegation Visits Cuba

BK1406153692 Hanoi VNA in English 1418 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 14—A delegation of the National Assembly led by Vu Mao, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, and head of the office of the National Assembly and the State Council, has paid a visit to Cuba at the invitation of the Cuban National Assembly.

It was received in Havana on June 8 by Juan Escalone, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, and president of the National Assembly of people's power. Vu Mao expressed the Vietnamese National Assembly and people's friendship and persistent solidarity with the fraternal Cuban People's National Construction and Defense under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by President Fidel Castro.

President Juan Escalone highly appreciated the Vietnamese people's achievements in economic development in line with the policy of renovation of the party of Vietnam. He reiterted his wish for further enhancement of the time-honoured friendship between the two national assemblies and peoples.

While in Cuba the delegation called at the Cuba-Vietnam Friendship Association the Asia-Occanie Research Centre and some other institutions and economic establishments in Havana. It also met and exchanged views with a number of officials of the Cuban party and mass organizations.

Australia

Evans Says Khmer Rouge Engaged in 'Brinkmanship'

BK1406053092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0448 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] Sydney, June 14 (AFP)—Assessments from Cambodia indicate that Khmer Rouge non-cooperation with the second phase of the U.N. peace accord is an exercise in "brinkmanship," Australia's Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Sunday.

However, Evans, a key architect of the accord, agreed the process is now facing a crisis and could come "grinding to a halt" in a matter of weeks.

Although the three rival armies have begun reporting to U.N. troops as required under the terms of phase two, the Khmer Rouge have refused to allow U.N. soldiers into their territory to begin demobilization.

U.N. observers have also reported numerous Khmer Rouge ceasefire violations over several weeks, and last week the Khmer Rouge launched an attack on Phnom Penh government forces.

Evans said while it was too early to say the accord was doomed, the Khmer Rouge's lack of cooperation with phase two—the disarming, demobilising and containment of the troops of the four warring parties—could not be sustained for long.

"No more than a few weeks, I guess at most, without manifestly bringing phase two grinding to a halt," he said in a Sunday morning television interview.

"And as that happens very serious questions will confront us about whether the plan is sustainable," Evans said.

He added that while the process of regrouping the other armies could begin, "you clearly can't disarm or demobilize them while the Khmer Rouge is non-cooperating."

However, he said the general feeling was that the Khmer Rouge have not decided to abort the peace process and plunge the country back into civil war.

"But none of us can afford to be complacent, and the next few weeks will tell whether these assessments are right," he said.

Evans said that although ceasefire violations contravened peace commitments, they were isolated incidents of the type that had been anticipated when the peace plan was negotiated.

Evans stressed that the Khmer Rouge were no longer being supported by China, and said he believed no other external support would be forthcoming.

Spokesman—PRC Aid With Khmer Rouge Sought

BK1506050992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0505 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Canberra, June 15 (AFP)—Australia will ask China to use its influence with the Khmer Rouge to get the faction to support the Cambodian peace process, a spokesman for Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said here Monday.

Evans is expected to raise the issue of the Khmer Rouge's breaches of the Cambodian ceasefire with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen, who arrives in Australia on Wednesday.

China backed the Khmer Rouge during its war with the Vietnamese-installed government of Hun Sen, but is now committed to the United Nations peace process.

Evans's spokesman said Evans and Qian meet in Canberra on Thursday and China would be asked to use whatever influence it had with the Khmer Rouge to help resolve continuing problems in Cambodia.

The U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia is in the process of deploying a civilian and military force to oversee Cambodia's transition to democracy after years of civil war.

Australia has contributed more than 500 troops to the force to set up communications in the country.

Evans has been nominated for the Nobel peace prize as an architect of the peace accord signed in Paris last October.

Qian began his two-nation tour Monday in Auckland and is expected in Canberra on Thursday.

He was to address the range of issues with New Zealand Foreign Minister Don McKinnon and Evans, including the Cambodian peace plan, arms control, regional security, human rights and trade, Chinese officials said.

Qian, a state councillor, is the highest ranking Chinese official to visit the two countries since the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protests in June 1989. [passage omitted]